LEVEL ONE

THE

# CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR World

Mr. Jay Stillson Judah, Librarian
Pacific School of Religion G as Mar 66
1798 Scenic Avenue
Berkeley, California 94709

PACIFIC SCHOOL

JUNE, 1965

July Ready-for-YOUth Resources

In this issue —


- Joyce Mae Gregory Named "Endeavorer of the Year" ..... 3
- With Bishop Meadows in Britain ..... 4
- News and Views 5
- Resources: Summer Slump or Success ..... 6

Junior High Topics ..... 7

Senior High— Young People's Topics ..... 15

- Young Adults and Adults ..... 23

## ROY ROGERS AND DALE EVANS TO BE HONORED AT DALLAS

# "EXCEPT THE LORD KEEP THE CITY . . ."

## BY THE GENERAL SECRETARY

Harold E. Westerhoff

Part of the 127th Psalm reads: "*** except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain." During a recent visit to East Berlin this Psalm took on new meaning for me. While the Psalmist penned these words centuries ago, they are as up-to-date as the Wall which keeps East Berliners penned in.

On a number of previous occasions I had visited both the east and the west in Berlin, but this was for me the first visit since the Wall. And there is a difference. And every free American ought to stand at that Wall—before it comes down as it must inevitably come down. The will of the people will see to that.

It is no engineering feat, no architectural accomplishment, no thing of beauty or grace. It is quite nondescript, made of many things, blocks, bricks, steel, wire, broken glass, great poles, steel shapes, and railroad ties, tank traps, and what have you. It follows a path of approximately 24 miles and wends its way from one end of Berlin to the other. One is at once convinced that its purpose is to keep East Berliners from the freedom of the West—not to keep out West Berliners. Of course, that too is very effectively accomplished except on rare special days.

There was opportunity for me to meet with more than seventy young people in a prayer meeting—all of them 18 years of age or older. Many of them were university students. All of them were paying a tremendous price for their Christian witness. After the meeting, during a question period, a youthful student asked: "Is Christ as big to American youth as He is to East Berlin Christians?" Later he attempted to apologize for what he felt I might have regarded as an impertinence. But there was no need for apology, for it was a very appropriate question.

Jesus Christ is very real—very big—to the East German Christian young person. Christ is that young person's very life—possibly his whole future. Christ is the supreme test to these young people as He is the world over. And these East Berlin young people are passing the test.

As we made our way back through the checkpoint, rather late at night, there could be seen several pairs of Vapos, armed and patrolling among the barbed wire entanglements and other segments of the Wall. Completely floodlighted and spotlighted, one wonders how anyone has been able to cross it—yet cross it they have—some of the more desperate.

And again the Psalm echoed across the barrier: "***except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain."

## *On the June Calendar*

**4-6—New York State Convention, Lima**
Contact: Mildred A. L. Christgau, 60-77 68th Avenue, Brooklyn 11227

**11-12—Indiana Retreat, near Indianapolis**
Contact: Rev. Ray Zimmerman, Huntington College, Huntington 46750

**18-19—Michigan Convention, Lake Odessa**
Contact: Elwood Dunn, 16524 Woodward Avenue, Detroit 48203

**19—Ohio Conventionette, Columbus**
Contact: Norman E. Brown, 1722 Drenik Drive, Wickliffe 44092

**21-24—West Virginia Convention, Martinsburg**
Contact: Mrs. Paul Garey, Star Route #2, Cameron 26033

**21-25—North Carolina Youth Conference, Crestmont**
Contact: B. J. Adams, 706 Sycamore Road, Graham 27253

**25-27—California Convention, LaMirada**
Contact: Max E. Webb, 1230 Hillview Court, Whittier 90601

**27-July 3—Massachusetts Youth Conference, East Northfield**
Contact: Mr. Chester D. Blackman, 599 Plantation Street, Worcester 06105

### COVER CLUES

For their active Christian witness in the midst of successful careers in both entertainment and business, Roy Rogers and Dale Evans will be awarded International Youth's Distinguished Service Citation July 9 at the Dallas Convention. They are the first dual recipients to receive this Citation and also the first show business personalities.


THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR World

JUNE 1965
Volume 80
Number 11

Official Publication of the International Society of Christian Endeavor

*Editor-in-Chief:* DANIEL A. POLING
*Editor:* PHYLLIS I. RIKE
*Associate Editor:* BERT H. DAVIS
*Ready-for-YOUth Resources Editor:* CHRISTIAN A. TIRRE
*Associate:* DELNO W. BROWN
*Publisher:* HAROLD E. WESTERHOFF

Member of Associated Church Press and Evangelical Press Association.

*Published monthly* by The Christian Endeavor World, Inc., at 1221 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43216. Second-class postage paid at Columbus, Ohio.

*Subscription Prices*: United States and Canada—$3 a year; five copies to one address $12 a year; ten copies to one address $19.50 a year. Other countries—$3.75 a year. Single Copy, 40c.

*Change of address* should be sent by first of month to affect following month's issue. Give old address as well as new one.

Printed in U.S.A.

## The Winner

# Joyce Mae Gregory of Ohio Named 1965 Endeavorer of the Year With Trip to Dallas as Award

Winner of the 1965 Endeavorer of the Year selection, sponsored by the International Society of Christian Endeavor, is Joyce Mae Gregory of Cleveland, Ohio. For her achievement Joyce will receive an all-expense paid trip (to a maximum of $150) to the 48th International Christian Endeavor Convention in Dallas July 6-10, plus hotel and meal costs at the Statler Hilton Hotel for five nights' lodging (dormitory style room) and all meals Wednesday through Saturday, and a free convention registration worth $5.

Mary E. Adams of Columbus, Ohio; David K. DeWitte of Kalamazoo, Michigan; and Lawrence L. Hanby of Mesquite, Texas, were runners-up in the competition. All three will receive free hotel and meals as described above, worth $38, along with the registration worth $5.

Contestants were nominated by Christian Endeavor societies, unions, or adult groups which enrolled in the 1965 Society Roll Call during December, January, February, or March. Each nominee was required to have passed his 12th birthday but not have reached his 22nd birthday by February 28, 1965, and to be an active member of a Christian Endeavor society. The nomination form called for information on the nominee's local Christian Endeavor, church, denominational, interdenominational, and community activities.

During the Dallas Convention Joyce and the three runners-up will be presented. They will also have opportunity to participate on the convention program.

The Endeavorer of the Year selection was inaugurated in 1961 to recognize an outstanding young person annually and to encourage youth in their Christian witness. Youth previously honored include Beverley V. Baxter of Oregon, Ralph E. Robrahn of Michigan, and David J. Hildreth and Conrad K. Clippinger II, both of Ohio.

Ralph Robrahn is now serving as associate president of the International Society and is a member of the Executive Committee. He is studying for the ministry. David Hildreth is completing his first year as a high school mathematics teacher and is a state and local union officer. Conrad Clippinger graduates this year from high school and plans to go on to college; he is president of the Miami Valley Union.

Joyce Mae Gregory, 17-year-old high school junior, is secretary of the Senior High Society of Miles Avenue Church of Christ. Her minister, Charles F. Russell, calls her "a vibrant witness, servant, and example in the church."

Last year Joyce was president of the Senior High Society, which joined with the Adult Society to nominate her for this honor. She is a member of the Chancel Choir and accompanist for the Youth Choir, and has served four years as music director for daily vacation Bible school.

In the wider work of Christian Endeavor she is corresponding secretary and program chairman for Cuyahoga County Union and has attended state and international conventions.

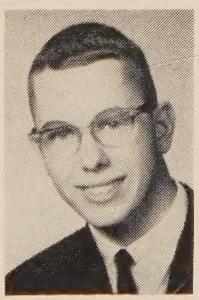
At Garfield Senior High School she is on the honor roll and is a member of the a cappella choir and the Booster Club.

Mrs. E. G. Colquitt, society sponsor, says Joyce "is truly representative of a young Christian leader, not only in church and Christian Endeavor, but in school and various other organizations as well."

After high school Joyce plans to study at Milligan College, preparing for church service as a youth director.

# Three Runners-Up Also Selected for Honors

Mary E. Adams, a secretary for the Ohio State Department of Education, is president of the Senior High Society of Brown Road Community Church. She celebrated her 19th birthday May 1 and was elected president of the Franklin County Union (which nominated her) on May 2. She is a 1963 graduate of Franklin Heights High School. Mary sings in the youth and adult choirs, serves as Sunday school secretary, and teaches at vacation Bible school in her church. She has participated in state and international Christian Endeavor events. She gives one night a week as a volunteer helper at a local hospital.



David K. DeWitte, senior at Loy Norris High School, was nominated by the Senior High Society of First Reformed Church. David is currently society president, sings in the choir, and is on the church newspaper staff and softball team. He is youth representative on the Michigan Union board and led a Christian citizenship conference at the Spring Conclave. In 1964 he participated in the International Summer Assembly. He works in the high school bookstore and is a member of the school bowling league. Last fall he helped fight a local liquor-by-the-glass issue.

Lawrence L. Hanby, 17, is a runner-up for the third straight year. He is president of Dallas District Union, which nominated him. Active in the High School Society of Bruton Road Christian Church, he also directs the Youth Choir, is evening service songleader, and participates in the M.H.V.H. Circle (lifework recruit group). He is Texas Union secretary and has taken part in many state and international activities. At Mesquite High School, where he is a junior, he is a member of the Honor Society, president-elect of the band, an officer of "Youth for Christ" Club, and has received Science Fair awards.

# With Bishop Meadows in Britain

Bishop Clyde W. Meadows, president of the World's Christian Endeavor Union, spent two weeks in April in the British Isles. He traveled 8,635 miles and spoke 32 times to audiences ranging from 300 to 700 in attendance.

There were over 2,000 in attendance at the Welsh Convention at Pontypridd, but they could not all get into any of the churches. Rev. S. Gordon Jackson and Bishop Meadows spoke in two simultaneous sessions that packed to capacity the St. David's Presbyterian Church and the Congregational Church.

"It was worth a trip to Europe to hear these great Welsh congregations sing," says Bishop Meadows. "The earth seemed to be filled with the praise and glory of God. The theme of this 66th Welsh National Convention was 'Let Go . . . Let God.' There were evident signs of real commitment to Christ among the hundreds of young people in these meetings."

Other Christian Endeavor conventions in which Bishop Meadows participated included the Diamond Jubilee Convention of South West Essex Union in London, the 32nd Easter Convention of West of England Federation in Cheltenham under the theme "Going On with the Ongoing Christ," and the 64th Scottish National Convention in Kilsyth, near Glasgow, with the theme "Mining God's Word."

"One of the most important features of this trip," reports Bishop Meadows, "was the holding of important World's Union business meetings including the Finance Committee, the Board of Trustees, and the Program and Convention City Committee meetings in preparation for the 15th World's Convention to be held in Belfast, Northern Ireland, July 27-August 1, 1966. The attendance and interest in these meetings was most encouraging. The presence of Dr. Allan J. Blair of New Jersey, chairman of the Finance Committee, and of Harold E. Westerhoff, general secretary, added much to these business meetings."

In connection with the meetings in Belfast a Pre-Convention Rally was held in Wellington Hall, attended by over 650, including a 120-voice convention choir. They expect to build this choir up to 500 voices for the 1966 convention. Other great rallies in which Bishop Meadows participated included the Northeastern Federation Rally at Newcastle, the Yorkshire Federation Rally at Leeds, and the Midlands Federation Rally at Hinckley.

Bishop Meadows gives much credit to Harold Westerhoff and to William J. Sharpe of England, general secretary for Area II of the World's Union, for organizing his tour so that everything worked smoothly.

Bishop Meadows concludes his report: "Not least among the results of this tour was the opportunity to counsel with many young people who voiced their commitment to Christ following most of these meetings."

## Guide for ACTION Writers

Rev. Roger D. Vander Kolk

Pearl F. Reed

Pearl F. Reed has prepared the materials for the Junior High Edition of the 1965-66 Guide for ACTION. Miss Reed is director of Christian Endeavor for First Church of Evans, Derby, New York, and counselor for the Intermediate Society. She is also counselor for the Erie County Union and was 1965 Outdoor Poster Chairman for New York State. She is a trustee of the International Society.

The writer of the Senior High-Young People's Edition of the 1965-66 Guide for ACTION is Rev. Roger D. Vander Kolk. He is pastor of Laketon Bethel Reformed Church, Muskegon, Michigan, and advisor for the Michigan Union. He is a member of the Youth Work Committee of the International Society.

The Guide for ACTION folders for 1965-66 are now available and may be ordered from the International Society of Christian Endeavor at a cost of 25c each. Each edition includes topics and activity suggestions for the five major committees, plus the Executive Committee—a page for each month September 1965 through August 1966. The folders also include two calendar pages with space to list weekly leaders. Order a supply for summer planning conferences and for use throughout the year.

ENJOYING A BON VOYAGE party for Harold E. Westerhoff at Christian Endeavor Headquarters April 15 are (from left, clockwise) Priscilla J. Allen, Rev. Christian A. Tirre, Patricia L. Nester, Faye E. Stottler, Eleanor J. Tope, Diana G. Palmer, Zelda W. Hughes, D. Sue Ward, Anthony L. Lang, Karon S Rinehart, Arch J. McQuilkin, and Mr. Westerhoff. Phyllis I. Rike was the photographer.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

## BIENNIAL MEETING
of the
## International Society of Christian Endeavor

The regular biennial meeting of the Corporation of the International Society of Christian Endeavor will be held at 2:00 p.m., Thursday, July 8, 1965, in the Embassy East Room, Statler Hilton Hotel, 1900 Commerce Street, Dallas, Texas. There will be election of officers and regular business will be transacted.

All annual, sustaining, supporting, life, and youth members of the International Society of Christian Endeavor are voting members of the Corporation. This meeting is being held in connection with the 48th International Christian Endeavor Convention which will convene July 6-10, 1965, at Dallas, Texas.

Arch J. McQuilkin
President

Harold E. Westerhoff
Clerk

May 25, 1965
Columbus, Ohio

# NEWS AND VIEWS

CHILDREN'S WORK COMMITTEE members prepared 1967 Junior topics and Primary units April 2-3 when they met in Columbus, Ohio. Hard at work are (from left, clockwise) Florence Zimmerman, Mrs. Kent D. Maxwell, chairman, Mrs. Warren G. Hoopes, Sr., and Rev. Christian A. Tirre, educational secretary.

• BELFAST ENDEAVORERS are making great plans to welcome delegates from around the world in 1966. The King's Hall, where the meetings of the 15th World's Christian Endeavor Convention will be held, is the largest hall in the city and can hold 8,000 people. There will be a choir of 500 voices to lead the praise services; it is hoped the members can be dressed in Ulster Linen, one of the products which has made the name of the province famous. A Civic Reception at Belfast's City Hall and an even larger Government Reception at Stormont are planned. Convention tours being considered include Belfast City, Antrim Coast, and Western Counties. Convention dates are July 27-August 1, 1966.

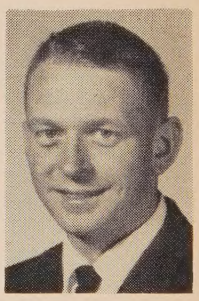
• NEW SOCIETIES IN AUSTRIA are reported by William J. Sharpe, general secretary for Area II of the World's Union. For many years Christian Endeavor has been wholly confined to Carinthia (a lovely region of lakes and mountains); now there is a healthy group in the capital, Vienna, and new societies are also being formed north of the Alps. Two encouraging conferences have just taken place, one in the Holiday Home at Seeboden, attended by 80 young people, and the other at Hermagor in Gailtal (on the Italian frontier.) To this 70 young folk came from as far afield as Vienna and Klagenfurt. A new Holiday Home is under construction at Feld-am-See in Carinthia. A British holiday party is planned there for 1967.

OREGON'S NEW PRESIDENT is Linda Cunningham of Culver. A student at the University of Oregon in Eugene, she is active in Campus Crusade for Christ. At Culver Christian Church she held several society offices. She also served as Central Union president and has been on various state union committees. Miss Cunningham says, "The most meaningful experiences that have affected my life have come through Christian Endeavor and this has showed me the great love and guidance of Christ."

• ORGANIZING a society? Secure the folder "How to Organize a Christian Endeavor Society" from Christian Endeavor Headquarters; cost, 10c.

SAN JACINTO (TEXAS) District Endeavorers went all out to greet Arch J. McQuilkin when the International Society president arrived at Houston airport March 21 during a week of extension work throughout the state.

• DID YOU KNOW that there are Christian Endeavor societies in Kuwait (Arabia), as well as in Egypt and the Sudan? They hope to be represented at the World's Convention in 1966.



GARY G. HAVEMAN of Everett is the new president of the Washington State Christian Endeavor Union, elected during the March convention. A Junior High mathematics teacher, he is a graduate of Western Washington State College. Mr. Haveman is a Sunday school teacher and choir member at Woodway Community Reformed Church of Edmonds. He has served as local society president and as church activity chairman for the state union. He is a bachelor.

MUSICAL TALENT such as that of the Young Adult Choir (lower left photo) of Trinity A.M.E. Church, Gouldtown, New Jersey, was a special feature of this year's Middle Atlantic Regional Conference April 23-25 in Atlantic City. Some of the talent was impromptu, such as this musical aggregation (lower right) from Pennsylvania, rounded up by Frances M. Becker to boost Dallas Convention registrations. James R. Westerhoff, regional vice-president, headed up program arrangements. Evangelism was the special emphasis.

# Summer Slump or Success

By Rev. A. Walker Hepler, Pastor, The First Church of Evans, Derby, New York

## Prelude and Preamble

It has rightly been stated that the difference between success and failure is often very small. In like manner, the difference between summer slump or success may be infinitesimal. Many suggestions might be proposed for continuing Christian Endeavor meetings on the highest level during the summer months. Variety, value, and versatility of program preparation and presentation are necessary prerequisites for practical purposes. Prayer, patience, persistence, and perseverance are required to keep meetings interesting.

If you don't achieve immediate response, don't be discouraged, distressed, or disheartened. If at first you don't succeed, try, try again. "Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord, your labor is not in vain" (I Corinthians 15:58 RSV).

## Planning and Preparation—Promotion and Publicity

Summer is a time for long-range planning and preparation for proposed programs, projects, and procedures. The participation of the whole group should be primary.

Summer offers opportunities for activities outside the church building: at a member's home, outdoor chapel, church camp, conference area, cottage, campfire site, park, hilltop, lake, or seashore. The time and use of facilities should be cleared well in advance.

Teamwork is most important, and each individual or committee is an essential team member. All reports and recommendations should be worked out together at the planning conference.

## Programs and Presentations—Projects and Procedures

Summer time provides many outdoor opportunities to proclaim Christ. There are programs which can be realized in the summer as at no other time, such as:

(1) *Picnic*—A park, pool, pond, or lake would be a proper setting. Plan wholesome recreation which might include swimming, boating, ball game, races. Make sure everyone has an opportunity to participate. Secure an alternate site for use in case of bad weather. Select an attractive worship center so that all might worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

(2) *Party*—Indoors or out, special emphasis might be directed to social service, world peace, missionary project, or get-acquainted opportunity for new members. Games might be related to the special emphasis, season, or some special day. Activities should be sufficiently varied to provide a congenial atmosphere for both old and new members.

(3) *Parade*—Since the Fourth of July comes on Sunday in 1965, an American society might participate in a community Independence Day parade with careful thought given to a float emphasizing Christ and the Church or a marching band or chorus that would highlight freedom as one nation under God. The cooperation of other church organizations might be solicited.

(4) *Play*—A formal play might be produced, or an original one relating to summer topics in THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR WORLD on Christian social issues might be prepared, in which young people are challenged with the Christian way to face certain problems of ethical and moral conduct. Pantomime might also be employed effectively.

(5) *Portrayal*—The portrayal of an ethical or moral issue through role playing is done as the leader sets up possible life situations in which several members present a skit debating the popular way versus the Christian way so that the audience can readily recognize and understand the problem discussed. The scene is cut off abruptly when the point at issue has been resolved.

(6) *Pageant*—Another dramatic opportunity might be the production of Bible biographies or of a patriotic or religious pageant to which parents and the public are invited.

(7) *Panel*—Some topics can be made more interesting through the use of a panel of several young people with the possible inclusion of the counselor or pastor. Each panelist presents certain areas of the topic, is given a list of questions to be asked, and has the opportunity to speak briefly on each problem. The moderator guides their discussion, summarizes their findings, and states their conclusions.

(8) *Playtime*—After a business meeting, recreation in the form of games for fellowship and relaxation is in order: (a) Outdoor games — races, sports, shuffleboard, ball games, badminton, roller skating, treasure or scavenger hunts. (b) Indoor games — table and word games, puzzles, password, charades, quizzes, table tennis, shuffleboard, bowling.

(9) *Buzz groups*—A method to encourage discussion participation by all those present is the use of buzz groups. This is a useful device in which problems and personal opinions are explored rather than factual and background material requiring research and coordination. The whole society is divided into small groups of five or six members. Each group goes into a huddle to consider a set of problems or questions presented to them and chooses a chairman to direct the discussion and a secretary to record conclusions reached by the group. When the whole society reassembles, the secretary of each buzz group reports its conclusions, followed by further discussion from the whole group.

(10) *Banquet*—A banquet inviting prospective new members, relatives home from college, parents, or other church groups might be held around Independence Day or some time preceding or following the church camp and conference season.

(11) *Campout or hike*—The mountains, valleys, hills, plains, and even the desert provide challenging and interesting trails. Identifying animals, birds, minerals, flowers, and trees adds interest. A cookout or campfire service makes a fitting climax or conclusion. If overnight is involved, provision must be worked out for food and sleeping facilities.

(12) *Campfire*—A program of devotions, discussion, music, prayer, and dedication can be quite inspiring around a campfire set in an open clearing, park, or playground, near a body of water or adjacent to forest or scenic vista. Careful preparation must be made for program, timing, wood, and safety.

(13) *Cookout*—It can be held at some appointed place or at a spot chosen at random along the trail. Basic setup, simple menu, and proper cleanup must be thought through thoroughly.

(14) *Caravan*—With a group of cars, a society might arrange to take a trip to visit a social agency, hospital, nursing home, prison, national shrine, scenic area, or mission station. This tour might be for a Sunday afternoon, weekend, or longer. The purpose might be to "go and see" or study or work.

(15) *Concert*—A choral or band concert in a park, playground, or some scenic or recreational area can be a source of witness to win young people to Christ. A hymnsing or singspiration should be led by a dynamic Christian personality.

(16) *Carnival*—A carnival with games of skill and competitive activities might conclude with a talent or stunt night.

(17) *Contests*—Competition is healthy if it does not become an end in itself. An attendance, activity, or achievement contest might create new interest during the summer slack.

(18) *Consecration service*—Individual effort to discover and do God's will might be emphasized in a candlelight consecration service where each member is challenged to greater sharing, sacrifice, and service for Christ and the Church.

Topics FOR JUNIOR HIGHS

# Chains or Choice

(Independence Sunday)

Lamentations 3:1-7,22-26,40

## For Publicity

Announce your meeting by simple posters which show the contrast between one in slavery and one casting a ballot. Or you might construct a paper chain of small size, placing it against a dark background, and a picture of scissors or a real pair of scissors on a light background. The poster should be divided diagonally and include the date, time, and place of the meeting.

## For the Leader

This meeting has been designed to express the meaning of Independence Sunday. Newspapers and other news media have been full of pictures, articles, and advertisements which depict and portray the Declaration of Independence on July 4 of a young nation 189 years ago or of the Proclamation of the Dominion of Canada July 1, 1867. Likewise our thoughts should be directed to the privilege of freedom which we enjoy as a result of these historic days, and we should also remember that many men have died in order that this freedom might be given us and have lived that it might be preserved through the ages.

It is not only our national freedoms for which we should be grateful, but also the freedoms of choice which we are able to make in various aspects of our lives. It is some of these aspects which we would like to discuss and bring to our immediate attention in this topic.

## For the Consecration Service

Each member of the society will want to make a statement pertaining to his intentions. The leader might have prepared a paper chain of somewhat larger links than those used on the poster for publicity and on each link have written some Scriptural reference to chains or yokes. The concordance will be helpful in preparing this. As each member comes to the front of the room he should cut a link of the chain with the scissors of "liberty" or "choice," read the Scripture, and make a statement consecrating some aspect of his life to service for Christ.

## Talks on the Topic

### Peace of Mind

A West Coast newspaper reports that people in the United States consume one million pounds of sleeping tablets every year. *(Not one million tablets but one million pounds!)* Think how many tablets would go to make up a pound. The statement goes on to declare that each night American people swallow 12 million doses, with some of these doses containing many more than a single pill. Every night, 12 million doses! Tensions are relaxed artificially but only temporarily. Troubles are merely postponed. Peace of mind comes not through a pill, but through the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. "Delight thyself also in the Lord; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass" (Psalm 37:4,5).

### Hope, Pray, and Work

Several years ago in a ramshackle area in Philadelphia, a little Negro boy had a passion to play baseball. He played the game at every opportunity. When he wasn't practicing, he glued his eye to a knothole in the fence behind which the Philadelphia Athletics played, watching their every move. He longed for the day when he would be a member of a big league baseball club. Yet what chance had he, a Negro boy, ever to play in the big league?

Nevertheless, he kept hoping, praying and believing — and he continued to practice. In the course of time a Christian gentleman by the name of Branch Rickey lifted the color bar in the big leagues. "There is no color to a home run," said Branch Rickey. This Negro boy got his chance. Roy Campanella became one of the finest catchers in either league.

Even when it seems impossible to achieve your goal, refuse to give way to despair. Believe, hope, pray, and work toward its fulfillment. Who knows what kindly Providence may hold in store for you?

### Quit School and Fail

That sounds like an odd statement, doesn't it? Usually we would say it the other way around. Perhaps it's a bit early yet in life for most of us to have reached the dropout stage in school, and now that summer vacation is upon us the idea of the difficulty of schoolwork seems rather remote to us. But it is still a consideration with which many boys and girls have had some experience, either in their own thinking or their knowledge of some of their classmates who have quit school.

What could be some of the reasons behind dropping out of school? Could it be that some think the courses of study are too difficult? Could it be that some might think they will "get ahead" of some of their friends by getting a steady job at an early age? Whatever the reason, including that of being "needed at home," the fact remains that you do not get a head start in your business career by quitting school. Quite the contrary is true. You will have seriously lessened or even eliminated entirely your chances of success by going to work before you're fully trained. By completing your schooling you become better educated, better coordinated, better equipped and emerge fully prepared to compete with the next fellow for that much-desired job or place in society.

You will have at least trained your mind in this direction, and it will have become more receptive to the challenges and opportunities presented to us each day. By having this educational background you will be able to cope with new situations and be able to make wise choices in whatever field of specialized training or endeavor you may feel you are especially suited.

There was a time when a grade school education was enough to qualify you for an ordinary job. In those days several decades ago the requirements for getting and holding a job were not as demanding as they are today. The technical aspects of the space age require you to

*(Continued on next page)*

### Suggested Program

Pre-Prayer Service
Call to Worship: John 8:32
Hymn: *Battle Hymn of the Republic*
Pledge of Allegiance to the Christian Flag
Hymn: *Onward, Christian Soldiers*
Pledge of Allegiance to the National Flag
Hymn: *My Country, 'Tis of Thee*
Scripture Reading: Lamentations 3:1-7,22-26,40
Prayer and the Lord's Prayer (unison)
Announcements and Offering
Hymn: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*
Leader's Introduction
Talks on the Topic
Consecration of Our Lives
Hymns of Meditation:
*O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee; Have Thine Own Way, Lord*
Closing Prayer
Christian Endeavor Benediction

*(Continued from previous page)*
be highly skilled and well-informed. You will find a great deal of competition in whatever career you choose. You will therefore need all the education you can get to make yourself better prepared.

Don't chain yourself to a mediocre life. Without an education you will fall into this category and find yourself unable to rise from circumstances brought about by it. Your income will be regulated at a proportionate level, and you may not be able to provide the necessities of life for yourself and your family. A high school education will guarantee a better level of living for you, and a degree from an accredited college will open many doors. Stay in school and "graduate" to a rewarding career. *(Read II Timothy 2:15, I Thessalonians 4:11.)*

### Marching to Zion

In 1940 a promising young tenor strode confidently onto the stage of the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City. He sang an audition which might mean he would be selected as one of the new singers to appear regularly with other great singers the world over. Even though he was only 20 years old he sang gracefully and well, his voice full of beautiful overtones and great resonance. He thought no one else sang nearly as well and was full of pride and expectation. Unfortunately for him the audition judges selected another singer. This meant he had not sung as well as the one who was selected. Our young friend had not won in the auditions.

Undaunted by this temporary setback, he continued to train, singing in as many operas elsewhere as he possibly could. He gave numerous recitals and eventually felt he was ready to try again. Four years had passed since his initial audition—years of hard work and concentration.

This time each step toward the center of that audition stage was taken with determination. He knew the time was right. He began to sing. Those same magnificent overtones and resonances filled the opera house, but this time his voice was different. It was tempered with warmth and understanding. The sounds of his clear and flawless tenor sent shafts of color throughout the dimly lit auditorium from the front row of seats in the orchestra to the very last aisle in the uppermost balcony. The outcome was inevitable. Robert Merrill had won that coveted first place in the Metropolitan Opera Auditions.

What had taken place in those intervening years? Simply this—he had made a decision to work hard and had the determination to gain the experience he needed for success.

Likewise, a thrilling spiritual adventure awaits us, but it will take courage and determination to achieve it. The explorers and pioneers who first crossed vast expanses of the unknown were men full of courage. They are the men and women who have charted unknown regions of the earth, who have sailed the seven seas: the Leif Ericsons, the Columbuses, the Magellans, the Earharts, and the Lindberghs. These are they who have chosen to lead the free world in its conquest of nuclear energy, those scientists including Einstein and Oppenheimer who fathered these projects. They are the astronauts and cosmonauts who explore space and the Werner von Brauns who put them there.

They are the men and women who lead the democracies in the struggle against communism: the Hungarian Freedom Fighters, the Korean and United Nations armed forces and the loyal Vietnamese defending their liberties in the rice paddies and river deltas of Southeast Asia. Courage and determination have filled the lives of the medical missionaries: Dr. Albert Schweitzer serving the dark continent of Africa at Lambarene and Dr. Tom Dooley who spent the last years of his well-prepared life at a jungle hospital in French Indo-China. And this same spark has filled the life of Dr. Billy Graham who has brought the glad message to perhaps more people of the world than any modern-day evangelist. These have dared to break their bonds of convention and strike out on a course of merit. Of course, there were failures and temporary setbacks and unforeseen dangers, but these men were not beaten.

We should not be discouraged if we fail in our first efforts. We learn very little from continued successes and victories. Those of us who make mistakes learn a great deal by correcting them. A winner can become so elated over his victory that he forgets the mistakes he has made.

To be a disciple of the Lord is the noblest of all callings. This thrilling spiritual adventure will mean a life spent in following Christ and giving Him first place in everything we do. It will make us be Christlike in our lives. This will mean a life of complete obedience to God's will. Through it He will strengthen us by giving us insight and courage. It will require patience and longsuffering when things seem to go wrong. It will require faithfulness, forgiveness, and deepened devotion when your friends turn away from you. "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me" (Matthew 16:24).

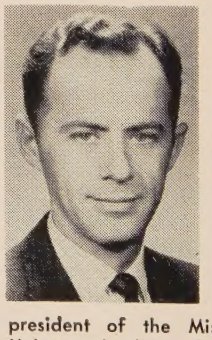
### The Master Plan

Men from all walks of life have served the Lord. They have done it willingly, being led and inspired by Christ, and the rewards have been tremendous. Those first disciples of Christ were successful businessmen in their various fields. They were content to follow their daily routine without too much concern for bettering themselves and certainly little thought of quitting whatever job they had. There were Simon, called Peter, Andrew his brother, and James and John, sons of Zebedee, all who were fishermen. And there was Matthew, a receiver of taxes. And there were seven others: Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, James the son of Alpheus, Libbeus Thaddeus, Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot. But when Jesus called them to be His disciples, they straightway left whatever it was they were doing, and as Jesus commanded them, they took neither staves, scrip, bread, money, nor two coats with them. Christ commanded them to go about preaching the Gospel. What if they had not done so? If they had gone away and been silent, they would have committed a treasonous act against Christ. We would never have known God's plan of salvation and the vastness of His mercies. Therefore God is counting on you and me to tell the story and His scheme of redemption. "He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal" (John 12:25). The Master has no other plan.

Comments by Preston T. Bowling

### Daily Bible Readings

M. June 28 Cords of Sin Proverbs 5:21-23
T. June 29 Bonds of Iniquity Acts 8:20-23
W. June 30 Christ, the Deliverer Romans 7:18-25
T. July 1 Deliverance from Bondage Romans 8:15-21
F. July 2 Free to Serve God I Peter 2:13-17
S. July 3 The Goal of Liberty Galatians 5:13-16
**Sun. July 4—Topic: Chains or Choice Lamentations 3:1-7,22-26,40 (Independence Sunday)**

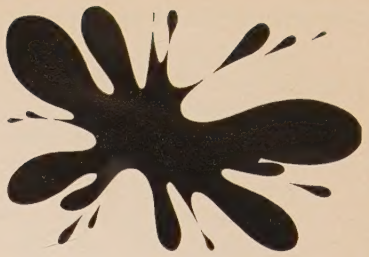


Preston T. Bowling is a new Junior High topic writer. He is president of the St. Louis Christian Endeavor Union. Mr. Bowling is employed as a material controller at the Venice Illinois Power Plant. He is very active in church work and serves as the organist of the Nelson Presbyterian Church, St. Louis. Other activities include vice-president of the Missouri Christian Endeavor Union and editor of the St. Louis Christian Endeavor paper, SURVEY. Mr. Bowling is a member of the Baptist Church.

Topic 1 in a Unit: Problems of Conduct

# Slash Your Way to Trouble

Proverbs 28:6-14; John 19:23,24



## For Publicity

Secure newspaper headlines and magazine clippings on juvenile delinquency and vandalism. Make posters and give date, time, and place of your meeting.

## For the Counselor

The emphasis of this unit *Problems of Conduct* is the need to abstain from evil. Christian Endeavor is a vital and positive approach to the problems of juvenile delinquency and vandalism.

Consideration is given to the senseless and destructive patterns of vandalism. The very basis of good conduct is an overwhelming loyalty to Jesus Christ. See what analogies the Junior Highs themselves find between the moral standards of Jesus and conduct of their own world today. The program suggestions are aimed to help Junior Highs understand their daily roles in the broader context of Christian living.

## Additional Resources

The *Guide for ACTION* is useful for planning useful activities for your committees. Here is an opportunity to put meaning into words and concepts, and to become involved in solving problems of conduct and vandalism. This Guide is aimed to meet the current needs of Junior High societies. In fact, it speaks alike to the basic needs of societies and to the particular interests of Junior Highs.

You should also have copies of Christian Endeavor's Catalog of Literature and Supplies, "A Vital Program for Youth," and "What is Christian Endeavor?" These additional resources will be helpful in enriching your meetings.

## Aims

1. Endeavor to present God's gift of Jesus Christ, who not only chose to lose His life rather than take another man's life but who, in losing His life, showed all men the way to find eternal life.

2. Project the higher moral and spiritual values of Christ to combat the folly of vandalism.

3. Aim to find meaning and purpose in life without destroying another person's life or property in the process.

## For the Leader

You might find it profitable to spend time thinking through the following questions or ones similar to them. The clear convictions of the leader are necessary in presenting and upholding high moral standards.

What is the responsibility of Christian Endeavorers in this area of juvenile delinquency — vandalism? Can I speak with absolute firmness of Christian morality? Can I give a list of dos and dont's as guideposts for Christian living? What should be my attitude toward other persons and their property? Are there absolute rights and wrongs common to all people? What is the criterion for Christian morality?

Enthusiasm is catching. You may be saying to yourself, "Why do I have to lead the meeting this week?" Let's *hope* you are saying, "I can hardly wait for our meeting! I want to become more active in witnessing to higher moral standards." If you are saying the latter, this is an excellent beginning.

## Leader's Introduction

Early in life we begin to make choices. We choose between good and evil conduct. Wrong choices lead to trouble and bad consequences. Right choices bring inner peace and joy and eternal life.

Choices cannot be avoided. Choosing is a part of life. The choice is either slash your way to trouble or live for Christ daily. A Christian has moral and spiritual values to guide him, and he wants to conform as fully as possible to Christ's way.

The higher moral standards of the Christian life include the Ten Commandments—plus. We cannot achieve good conduct without help. The current biennial theme of the International Society of Christian Endeavor is "Through Christ I Can." Use the folder "A Vital Program for Youth" to evaluate the spiritual growth of both individuals and societies.

### Suggested Program

Pre-Prayer Service
Call to Worship: Psalm 22:27,28
Hymns: *Lead On, O King Eternal* and *Living for Jesus*
Scripture Reading: Proverbs 28:6-14; John 19:23,24
Prayer in Unison: The Lord's Prayer
Announcements and Offering
Hymn: *Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus*
Leader's Introduction
Discussion or Alternative Presentation
Hymn: *Have Thine Own Way, Lord*
Sentence Prayers or Silent Prayer
Benediction

## Slaying the Giant

David slew Goliath. How can we overcome evil? The weakest Junior High can overthrow the strongest sin, if he proceeds as David did. The number of juveniles who are guilty of delinquent behavior is increasing.

"Thou comest to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a shield, but I come to thee in the name of the God of hosts of Israel, whom thou hast railed upon." Watch the approach of any bad conduct or evil. If you discern it to come with a sword or spear (that is, threats, dishonor, wanton destruction of property) if it come with a shield (that is, with empty promises to cover up delinquent behavior), if then this David (your tempted soul) can put his hand into his bag as David did (for a man's heart is that bag in which God lays good conduct), if he can but take Jesus, his Christ, and sling His words, His commandments, then this Goliath, this giant sin, will fall to the ground.

And then it is said of David that he slew him when he had no sword in his hand. Yet in the next verse, he took his sword and slew him with that. So I shall kill sin with its own sword. Sin's own foulness, its own wantonness shall make me shun it. Sin destroys itself.

Vandalism leads to trouble. Nobody gains. Everybody loses from the wanton destruction of property. Even the executioners of Christ would not slash or destroy His robe. Junior Highs must dare to look at the wrong involved in vandalism and the trouble to which it can lead. Look to Christ for courage and strength to overcome.

*(Continued on next page)*

*(Continued from previous page)*

## Symposium: Comments-in-Brief

1. Crime is increasing today. The most frightening and threatening aspect of crime for the future is the rising rate of juvenile delinquency and vandalism. The shattering fact of youth in crime is the accompanying savagery and destructiveness. Vandalism has become commonplace. Newspaper after newspaper reports stories of slashed tires, broken windows, marked walls, and other senseless acts of vandalism. The shocking acts of vandalism stand out as a terrible commentary upon modern living.

2. What feeds the thoughtless slashings and moral sickness of our times? Indifference and apathy make the problems of conduct more difficult. Sick humor adds to the flood of indifference and cynicism.

3. Another source of vandalism is the general retreat by increasing numbers from the recognition of an objective or absolute standard of morality. Moral behavior must be taught on the basis of clear and unmistakable right and wrong. Moral standards have been abandoned in many areas of life and replaced by "socially acceptable behavior." "Being well-liked" has been substituted for "being right."

4. Why has vandalism become a popular pastime? We need to mobilize our efforts to curtail the sale of cheap and sensual trash on newsstands and magazine stores. We need to look further at popular publications to find undesirable pictures and features. Cheap and vulgar movies are increasing. Violence and brutality are common on television.

5. The rising rate of juvenile delinquency is alarming, but not surprising. For many years it has been argued that boys and girls need to be given freedom from the stuffy and strict limits of the past. "Why bridle passions?" "Why restrain desires?" "Right or wrong is a matter of individual taste." Now we see the results in the rising rate of senseless vandalism. And all the verbal sedatives are not very consoling to the man who discovers that the tires of his car have been slashed or to the woman who finds her blooming flowers slashed and damaged.

6. "Don't worry; things could be worse." Such expressions can serve only to cover up the responsibility of each one of us. The best word to describe the increasing problems of conduct is an old word from the Bible called "sin". Sin means that instead of acknowledging God's right to rule and doing what He wants, we do "what comes naturally" and encourage others to do the same. Then we try to shift the blame. The need of the hour is to change minds and attitudes toward Christ, to admit that right or wrong is not a matter of individual taste. The Bible calls this "repentance." We have only ourselves to blame. The only way is the way of Jesus Christ.

7. Another destructive factor to the health of our souls is the growing negative feelings of many toward life. It is reflected in destructive actions and vulgar speech. It is seen in pitiful attitude of anti-social behavior and anti-Christian beliefs. It is noted in senseless assaults on personal and private property. It is apparent in the sneers which so often greet expressions of love and loyalty to higher spiritual values. It is manifest in irrational conduct and desecrations.

8. Jesus had much to say about our conduct and the way we ought to live. "Be ye perfect," said He, "even as your Father in heaven is perfect." Christian living springs from loyalty to God in Christ. The Christian life is built upon the cardinal virtues which undergird morality: honesty, purity, respect, good manners, unselfishness, cleanliness, responsibility, and fidelity to the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

### Points for Study and Discussion

1. Do you know of examples of destructive vandalism? What suggestions do you have for helping a boy or girl see the folly and wrongness of vandalism?

2. Are Junior Highs pampered too much and overindulged or "spoiled"? Is there a relationship between undisciplined living and overindulgence?

3. What are the dangers of conformity? Is there evidence that too many are afraid of today's moral issues because they appear to be controversial?

## Alternative Program Suggestions

1. Arrange an informal "talk-out" meeting. The leader may start a brief introduction and lay the foundation for an open discussion of Junior Highs' feelings on delinquent conduct. Keep the meeting informal so that the members may spontaneously air their concerns and their ideas.

2. Gather together a number of relevant news clippings, magazine articles, and pamphlets. Read them and review them in the light of higher moral values. This may take the form of a panel in which each Junior High speaks on one aspect of the problem or each gives a brief summary of the writer's main points, followed by further discussion.

3. Prepare a courtroom drama "In Defense of Higher Moral Values." Suggested allegations may be: (1) the moral teachings of Jesus are not applicable to the ordinary person in today's materialistic culture; (2) the teachings of Jesus were restricted to an obscure and backward part of the world nearly two thousand years ago; and (3) the teachings of Jesus are too difficult to reach and place impossible demands upon individuals.

The defense will build its case by refuting these allegations and exposing the dangers of substituting popular views for higher moral standards. Place emphasis upon the insights and security of the teachings of Jesus. Offer the values of the Christian way as Exhibit I. Assess the influence of the Hebraic-Christian ethic, such as on the Declaration of Independence, and its support by the long experiences of mankind. It is offered as Exhibit II. The defense rests!

In the summation the re-examination of the higher moral values of Jesus Christ takes on new luster and meaning and provides a sufficient guide for Junior Highs. In addition, there is added value in striving to make good prevail in the home, community, nation, and world. A new plea must be entered on behalf of the defendant. Condemn Christ? No, be loyal and obedient to His will! Go along with the crowd and be "sociable" and "well-liked"? No, accept the teachings of Jesus and find usefulness and value in improving the moral climate of our times.

### Daily Bible Readings

M. July 5 Sin Is a Reproach
Proverbs 14:32-35

T. July 6 Honest Labor Rewarded
Proverbs 28:18-22

W. July 7 Delivered from Temptation
II Peter 2:4-9

T. July 8 Warning against Evil
II Timothy 3:1-7

F. July 9 The Shame of the Wicked
Habakkuk 2:9-12

S. July 10 Judgment for Lawbreakers
Ezra 7:25,26

**Sun. July 11—Topic: Slash Your Way to Trouble**
**Proverbs 28:6-14; John 19:23,24**

Comments by Rev. Edgar L. Mack, pastor of the African Methodist Episcopal churches in Newport and Erlanger, Kentucky, and a member of the Youth Work Committee

**Hymns listed in program outlines in THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR WORLD have been selected from the new CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR SONGS. This book, with an attractive orange and black krome-kote cover, contains 138 songs and hymns and 20 responsive Scripture readings for youth meetings. Available from International Society of Christian Endeavor, 1221 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43216. Price: 60c each, $6 per dozen, $48 per hundred.**

Topic 2 in a Unit: Problems of Conduct

# Dangerous Weeds

I Corinthians 6:19,20

## Our Aims

To bring facts before the Junior High Christian Endeavor members that will help them intelligently make a decision against smoking.

To weigh the pros and cons regarding the use of tobacco in such a way that they can see for themselves that the facts against its use far outweigh the facts in its favor.

To present an unmistakable, unforgettable picture of the dangers of tobacco to every phase of life.

## Publicity

So publicize this meeting that every active, inactive, and prospective Junior High Christian Endeavor member will have it vividly brought to his attention. Use the bulletin board, the church bulletin, the local newspaper, radio, and television station if possible. Get permission to put an attractive poster on the school bulletin board. Make the publicity so vivid that even prospects in a hurry will have their attention drawn to it.

On the Junior High Christian Endeavorer's own bulletin board, construct a large balance scale of red against a white background. Across the top of the bulletin board in black block letters print—WEIGH THE EVIDENCE. Then across the bottom in the same type letters, print — FACT AGAINST FANCY. On one side of the scale, fasten a large drawing of a package of cigarettes. On the other, fasten a drawing of an attractive youth. Attractively arranged on either side of the board, place the time, place, and date of the meeting.

On the Sunday evening before the meeting and during Bible school the morning of the meeting, hand out to everyone present, small mimeographed balance scales that advertise your meeting. Be sure, too, that every effort is made to contact absentee members, informing them about what is going on, and why they should be present. Assign each active member an inactive one to bring to the meeting.

## Program Pointers

PRE-PRAYER SERVICE — Make a positive approach to these moments of prayer. Set it for fifteen minutes and use the fifteen minutes that were set. The leader should cooperate with the devotional chairman and definitely plan for the best utilization of this time. Sign up a definite number of Junior High Christian Endeavor members to be there ahead of the appointed time. Have someone designated to bring a few thoughts on the power of prayer. Give everyone who comes a definite part of the evening's meeting for which to pray. Make sure that every part of the meeting is undergirded this way by prayer. Claim Christ's promise to answered prayer. Pray in the name of Christ. Pray that God's will be done. Pray for all the members who should attend the meeting, that God will lay it upon their hearts to attend and grant to them a safe journey to it.

SONG FEST—Since a large part of the meeting will be given over to serious consideration of an important subject, it would be well to have a very spirited song service for the first ten minutes of the service. Secure the services of the best song leader available. Plan with this leader just what will be sung. Choose songs well-known to your own group and well-loved by them. Choose them well. They should add to the spirit of the meeting, not in any way detract from the atmosphere and mood that you want. The songs should put the group in an expectant, receptive mood.

HYMN—Be sure to use *Open My Eyes* for the hymn before the leader's remarks that introduce the main feature of the program. The leader should point out the nature of the prayer they have just sung. Challenge your Junior High Christian Endeavor members to keep an open mind as the facts are presented to them. The leader should briefly introduce the topic and how it is to be handled by the professional forum.

PROFESSIONAL FORUM—The discussion of anything that is as controversial with as many people as the use of tobacco is should be handled in as scientific a manner as possible and by those who are qualified to speak. That is the reason this is called a Professional Forum. Every person who takes part in it should first and foremost be a Christian and a professional in his or her designated area. Each one should be a non-smoker.

Example teaches too. Thinking minds do not accept a statement just because someone glibly makes it. So be sure that any statements made in this forum are backed by a heart full of love for Christ and a head full of facts, recognized and supported by reality. The forum should have on it a pharmacist, a physician, a policeman, a principal of a secondary school, and a minister. Each one should be given an equal amount of time, and each one should be held to his time. This can be done effectively by having a sixth member of the forum who can handle a stop watch and be diplomatic at the same time. Each speaker should be given five minutes. A good speaker, well-prepared, can pack a lot of information into a five-minute talk. Either the leader or someone selected by the leader should jot down questions that could be used for a later discussion.

A real balance scale should be used during the forum, labeled PRO and CON, with weights of some kind to represent each fact produced. When a fact against smoking is produced, a weight should be placed in the con side. When a valid fact is produced in favor of smoking a weight should be placed on the pro side. (*Be sure every Junior High Christian Endeavor member present understands what pro and con mean.*) When the forum is over you can rest assured that the balance scale will be weighted against smoking.

The first person in the forum should be a druggist. His presentation should be: *Dangerous Weeds—What They Are.* This is to be a factual presentation of the ingredients contained in cigarettes, cigars, and the tobacco used in pipes. The second speaker should be a physician. His topic should be on: *Dangerous Weeds—What They Do to the Body Physically.* This presentation should be factual, backed up by the government report on smoking. The physician should be followed by an experienced policeman, one from the juvenile division if your town is large

(Continued on next page)

### Program Outline

Pre-Prayer Service
Prelude
Announcements
Song Fest
Hymn: *Open My Eyes*
Leader's Comments
Professional Forum
Directed Discussion Period
Directed Meditation
Benediction

*(Continued from previous page)*

enough to have such a division. The policeman's topic should be: *Dangerous Weeds: Their Contribution to Delinquency.* Have him be specific; generalities are not very convincing. The government report on smoking and statistical information from the writings of J. Edgar Hoover and other qualified books on delinquency could be of value here. The next speaker in the forum should be a school principal. His phase of the subject should be: *Dangerous Weeds—The Making of Mental Misfits.* Statistics should be used here to show the correlation between smoking and poor grades and smoking and dropouts. The last speaker on the forum should be a minister who shares with the Junior High Christian Endeavor members the topic: *Dangerous Weeds—Source of Spiritual Sickness.* One approach he could make would be that the inevitable outcome of poor health and weakened minds is spiritual ill health. Some very good Scriptures to use at this point would be the biographical verse which concisely states Christ's growth (Luke 2:52) and I Corinthians 3:16.

DIRECTED DISCUSSION PERIOD —To make this program effective the members should have a chance to ask questions of the forum members when they are through with their presentations. It would probably be well to provide each member with a note pad and pencil so questions could be jotted down as they arise. Sometimes if a question cannot be asked at the time of its origin it is forgotten. The leader should encourage each one to jot down any questions he has so they can be asked during this question period. However, the leader must be prepared with a list of questions of his own, written out, so the discussion period doesn't lag. It would be well for him to sit down with some thinking adult and prepare a set of questions for emergency use.

During the discussion period each question should be directed to the one who can best answer it from the forum. For instance, if it happens to be a point regarding the harm smoking does to the body, the question should be directed to the physician for his answer. Watch the general tone of the discussion, and when it has served its purpose, it should be terminated.

DIRECTED MEDITATION — This period of meditation will have to be short, but meaningful. Thus, it will have to be well prepared. Since one would not be able to determine ahead of time the length of the discussion period, a devotional period will have to be planned that would be flexible. It should contain a moment of quiet music in which the pianist again plays *Open My Eyes.* This should help to turn thoughts to introspection of self in relation to the study that was made and the response every individual will have to make for self.

### Questions for Discussion

1. Is it worse for teen-agers to smoke than adults?
2. Is smoking harder on girls than on boys?
3. Is a possible early death the only concern?
4. Is there any valid relationship between smoking and relaxation?
5. Could you give some good arguments in favor of smoking?
6. Are cigarettes really habit-forming?
7. What percentage of top athletes smoke?
8. What helps could you give for one who is tempted by others to try it?
9. Are there any good uses for tobacco?
10. Why do young people want to start smoking?
11. When did humans first start smoking and why?
12. What do you think that Christ would say on the subject?

While the piano is still being played, the leader of the devotions should read Romans 12:1,2; I Corinthians 6:19,20; and Psalm 24:3,4. Type out these Scriptures to be at hand so they can be read fluently and consecutively without a break. As soon as the reading is completed, a soloist (who has been contacted, instructed and alerted) should sing quietly and reverently *Purer in Heart, O God.*

The leader should then ask that all heads be bowed in prayer while their prayer thoughts are directed by the leader. The leader should suggest things for which to pray silently, such things as strength to make decisions that should be done and the yearning in our hearts to want to follow Christ in every phase of life. It would be well to close this period with a choral benediction of the chorus to *Open My Eyes.*

## Suggested Hymns for Song Fest

*Are Ye Able, Said the Master*
*Give of Your Best to the Master*
*I Would Be Like Jesus*
*I Would Be True*
*In the Service of the King*
*Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*
*More Like the Master*
*Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus*
*Trust and Obey*

## Thoughts for Use in Meditation

Paul was appealing to his readers in the twelfth chapter of Romans so to live their lives that they were in constant consecration to Christ, thereby making themselves acceptable to God. He wanted them to recognize the folly of trying to fit oneself into a pattern set by the world. It was his desire that every Christian would pattern himself after Christ, thus rising above the ways of the world as it walks away from God.

He called to the attention of the Corinthians that their bodies were dwelling places of God's Spirit; that is why he could refer to the body as a temple. More than that, it really wasn't their body, Paul went on, because the body of every Christian belongs to God, by right of purchase—the purchase price being the life of God's only begotten Son. It then becomes a question of how we can keep ourselves in the condition in which God can dwell in us. This we can do by separating ourselves from those who walk not with God, by refusing to be led away from God's love, and by refraining from participating in any practice that is unclean.

When Christ was teaching His disciples on the mountainside, He told them that he who would see God must be pure in heart. We should, as Christians, strive to keep our thoughts and desires clean and pure, and then right actions will follow. This principle of truth was spoken of centuries ago by David, King of Israel, in Psalm 24, when he asked of himself the question: "Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in His holy place?" (Psalm 24:3).

In the time of King David, the places of worship were usually on elevated places, usually referred to as high places. In order to reach the actual place of worship, one had to climb or ascend. For that reason David was asking himself who could ascend into the hill of the Lord. And from deep within his own heart, placed there by God-fearing parents plus David's own desire to live for God, came the answer: "He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart" (Psalm 24:4a).

The question is still being asked, just as David asked it, and the answer is still the same. It we would bring ourselves to the place where we can truly worship God by standing where He is, we must keep our hands from touching unclean things, kept so by a heart kept pure for God.

### Daily Bible Readings

M. July 12 Dare to Be Different I Peter 4:1-5
T. July 13 Endure Temptations James 1:12-16
W. July 14 Not of This World John 17:14-19
T. July 15 Christ in Me Galatians 2:17-20
F. July 16 Blameless in Soul and Body I Thessalonians 5:22-24
S. July 17 Holy Temples I Corinthians 3:11-17
**Sun. July 18—Topic: Dangerous Weeds I Corinthians 6:19,20**

Comments by Mrs. Newell Morgan, a grade school teacher in Boise, Idaho, and wife of the minister of First Christian Church

Topic 3 in a Unit: Problems of Conduct

# To Do or Not to Do

Matthew 19:16-22

## Promotion

Prepare your participants for the fact that something is going to be required of them. They aren't going to come to this meeting just to sit and listen. They're going to have to think, and act, and decide! Decorate your Christian Endeavor bulletin board to represent a courtroom scene. Put in the spectators (the world). Have the jurors (God's Word) in the jurors' box. Represent the two attorneys (Prosecutor — Mr. Right, Defender — Mr. Wrong) with clever cartoon work. Have a defendant (Mr. Cheat) in the witness seat. Everything is ready for the trial but the judge. His chair is empty. In bold letters across the board put — YOU BE THE JUDGE! Elsewhere on the board place the time, date, place, and topic for the meeting.

During the week mail out to every member of the Junior High Christian Endeavor a subpoena notice. Make it as legal looking as possible. The wording might go something like this: *You are hereby subpoenaed to appear at the Court of Important Decisions next Sunday evening at 6:30 P.M. To fail to do so will cause you to face the risk of contempt of court. The Court of Important Decisions will be held in the Junior High Christian Endeavor room. Be prompt. Court cannot begin without the presence of the Judge.*

## Preparation

The leader for the meeting should get together with the devotional committee chairman and the counselor to determine ahead of time just which of the many decisions youth face will be incorporated into this program of the Court of Important Decisions. They couldn't all be covered in one evening, and so this committee should select the ones most pertinent to the local group and the ones with which the youth should face up to courageously in Christ. Be sure that your list includes the problems brought up in preceding topics which can confront your members with decisions to be made. When you have selected the important decisions that you are going to use for your court, make out a score sheet that can be duplicated so one can be given to every member present the night of the meeting. Some such sheet as this could be used:

COURT OF GREAT DECISIONS

Name of Judge
(Write your name here)

| PROBLEM | My decision Favor | Against |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Shall I cheat in school? | | |
| 2. Is it wrong to shoplift? | | |
| 3. Are lies ever white? | | |
| 4. Should I smoke? | | |
| 5. Should I mind my parents? | | |
| 6. Is breaking the law ever right? | | |

As the meeting progresses, time should be given for each "judge" to mark his ballot after each problem is presented in the light of God's Word on the subject compared to the stand the world seems to have on the problem.

Also ahead of time, secure a prosecuting attorney who will be firm but lovingly kind in presentation and a defense attorney who will be stubbornly sure he is right. If you have two Junior High members who could fill the bill on this, the rest of the youth might take the information better as coming from their own peer group. If you do not have two that could make the presentation meaningful, then get two, well-liked, capable, cooperative adults who would fit themselves into the spirit of the meeting.

## Program Pointers

*Pre-Prayer* — Make an effort to have this pre-prayer service attended by all of the members. The meeting should be of such a nature that it will be much more effective if every leader and participant is fortified with the strength that comes through prayer. So Junior High Christian Endeavor starts with the pre-prayer service. Have it well planned so that it will inspire and bless all.

COURT OF IMPORTANT DECISIONS—This part of the meeting should be planned to be conducted like a regular meeting of a court. So plan it that its seriousness produces thoughtfulness and this thoughtfulness produces the right decisions. The room should be so arranged that it speaks of a courtroom and lends itself to effectiveness in use. Of course, it can't be exactly like it, but the effect should be created for atmosphere. For a jury box, have a large box attractively covered and labeled JURY BOX. Place on top of it a large open Bible and a placard which reads: "God's Word contains the teachings which will convict or exonerate your actions."

The leader for the evening should be the clerk of the court. It is his (or her) responsibility to present each problem before the court, briefly stated, that is to be considered. Then the prosecuting attorney makes a short brief on the right side, and the defense attorney presents a short brief defending the wrong side. They should both occupy about the same space of time and be seriously presented. When both sides have presented their case, then each Junior High Christian Endeavor member should be given time to mark his ballot; this should be done seriously and sincerely. It would probably help if the pianist would play a short interlude of mood music while the "judges" are reaching each decision.

If *I Choose Jesus* is well-known, it would be good to play it. Select a song of consecration that your group knows well to set the mood.

This Court of Important Decisions should be kept moving but majestic. Decisions that influence character are not to be made lightly. Also, it should not be dragged past its effectiveness. Include enough decisions to be considered to make the evening worthwhile, but but not so many that they become meaningless. The Court of Important Decisions should be followed by a worship service that is culminative and dedicatory. It should be one that will be called to mind whenever one of the decisions presents itself for an answer. Such decisions have a way of cropping up time and again.

### Program Outline

Pre-Prayer Service
Prelude: *I Choose Jesus*
Announcements
Scripture Reading: Matthew 25:1-13
Hymn: *Are Ye Able, Said the Master*
Court of Important Decisions
Worship Service
Standing by Convictions
Benediction

## Worship Service

Quiet Music: *I Would Be Like Jesus*
Call to Worship Psalm 24:1-4
Hymn: *I Would Be Like Jesus*
Scripture Reading: Joshua 24:14,15; John 12:25, 26; Matthew 16:24,25
Poem: *Obedience,* McDonald
Solo: *I Choose Jesus*
Moments of Meditation
Dedication Service
Hymn: *Have Thine Own Way, Lord*
Benediction

## Moments of Meditation

Decisions checked on a sheet of paper will have no meaning unless a deeper avowal of purpose is made known in a service of commitment and then each one is challenged to go out and live accordingly, assured that no individual has to stand alone. Christ, the Master of Life, said — "And, lo, I am with you alway, even to the end of the earth" (Matthew 28:18). To this end secure a well-loved Christian adult who can challenge the Junior High Christian Endeavorers to stand anew by their convictions. These Moments of Meditation should be deep and challenging, brief and clear.

*(Continued on next page)*

*(Continued from previous page)*

They should lead, smoothly, into group participation in a well-planned dedication service. This service should renew each member's dedication to Christ, plus bringing anew a sense of dedication to rise daily above life's temptations and to walk hand in hand with Christ.

## Dedication Service

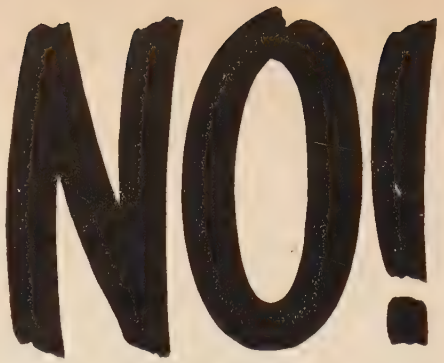
In keeping with the motif of a court room in which each one has had to render his or her own decisions, plan the dedication service to continue in the same vein. Have a worship center fixed at the front of the room. In this center have a tall cross for a background. In front of the cross have an open Bible, with two electric candles — one on either side of the open Bible. In front of the Bible have an open, legal-type file case lying open so that it can be easily used. At a designated place in the worship service, led into by the one who brings the Moments of Meditation, each person present is to take his slip of Important Decisions to the worship center and insert the slip into the legal packet.

After each one inserts his slip, he should bow in a moment of silent prayer, using a short sentence for the prayer which the speaker has suggested, or one of the member's own. One such suggested sentence could be, "Dear Lord, strengthen me to make the right decisions and then to stand by them." After this brief pause for prayer, each one should return to the group. When all have gone to the worship center and placed their slips in the envelope provided, the group should sing softly and prayerfully, *Have Thine Own Way, Lord.*

Another type of dedication service that could be held would be to have for the worship center a flat cross fastened against the wall, or some suitable substitute, the surface of which should be covered with tape that is sticky on both sides. At the proper time, each individual goes to the cross and places the checked Important Decision's slip against the cross. This should be planned as carefully as possible ahead of time so the slips completely and neatly cover the cross. The leader would need to instruct the members as to how to fasten them on to get the desired effect. Each one would then bow for a moment of prayer before returning from the cross. The closing hymn could then be *Beneath the Cross of Jesus* or *O Jesus, I Have Promised.* If this dedication service is used, it would be good to prepare ahead of time small mimeographed crosses with "I have made my decisions for Christ" printed on them, for each one to take home as a reminder of his stand. It should be attractive and well done.

## Preliminary Meetings

Sometime well in advance of the Sunday evening on which this topic is to be presented, it will be necessary to have two meetings of everyone involved in it. This will be necessary to insure a good program. The first meeting will be needed to make explanations of the program and to give specific assignments. Some of the things that will need to be done are:




1. Plan specifically the bulletin board and what will go on it with the publicity chairman and draw up the subpoena to be used.

2. Draw up the type of Important Decisions slips that will be used.

3. Decide with the two "attorneys" the way they should go about preparing their "briefs." Just coach them; don't give them the words. It should be their own work for better presentation.

4. Select the worship service that would fit in best with your group or plan another.

5. Allocate the timing to be utilized by each phase of the meeting, and then plan so each one will use all his time but no more.

A second meeting should be held closer to the program date to report on progress and care for last-minute details. It would be well at this time to double-check on the timing so the hour will be filled to the brim but not run over.

## Standing by Convictions

Living the Christian life is not merely a matter of one decision. So often people have the mistaken idea that a person makes one decision to accept Christ as personal Saviour, and then no more decisions have to be made. Nothing could be further from the truth. That original decision has to be made, and is undoubtedly the most important decision a person can ever make.

But that is only the first decision of a lifetime of decisions. Each time the Christian arises, he faces a new day in which many decisions will have to be made. From the time the alarm clock (or Mother's voice) breaks into pleasant dreams, until sleep again induces dreams at the close of the day, one decision after another will present itself. Usually the choice now is not "Shall I live for Christ?" since that has already been decided, but "How shall I live for Christ?"

In the light of this approach, every moment takes on new meaning, new challenge. It gives to life the flavor of a constant challenge to come out on top by seeing that every decision is the right decision, made as Christ leads the way when we ask Him to go ahead of us so that we will know the right from wrong. He said to His disciples, "Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you: for every one that asketh, receiveth; and he that seeketh, findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened" (Matthew 7:7,8). In the light of this promise, which has the complete dependability of the Word of God undergirding it, strength and understanding are available for every Christian to make the right choices in his day-by-day decisions. Each Junior High Christian Endeavorer can ask God each morning for guidance through the day, for God's presence moment by moment, for the courage to face the ever-demanding world and remain true to Christian convictions. All that will be necessary through the rest of the day will be to seek the answer God wants from each one in each situation. We need never get in over our heads in any situation because our Master has promised us, through His servant Paul, that "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way of escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (I Corinthians 10:13). How do we get this constantly available help? Through prayer. That is the "knocking" referred to by Jesus. When we, through prayer, knock at the throne of grace, God hears and opens to our pleading. Each one, becoming still in prayer, can hear softly spoken, "What does my child want?" Then we can express our deepest desire, assured that God's answer will be soon and best.

In this way each one can make the right decision and have the courage to stand by it. God knows our thoughts and our hearts. He knows the struggles and temptations we face many times daily. He knew when each one of us accepted Christ that we would have many decisions to make that would often test that strength of our convictions. One of the many promises He made to those who would choose His way of life is found in the book of Revelation: "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life" (Revelation 2:10c).

### Daily Bible Readings

M. July 19 Warnings against Evil
Exodus 23:1-7
T. July 20 Teach God's Laws
Deuteronomy 6:3-13
W. July 21 Do God's Commandments
Deuteronomy 26:16-19
T. July 22 The Test of Our Love I John 5:1-4
F. July 23 Heed Christ's Commands
I John 3:23,24
S. July 24 Follow Jesus Christ
Matthew 16:24-27
**Sun. July 25—Topic: To Do or Not to Do**
**Matthew 19:16-22**

Comments by Mrs. Newell Morgan, a grade school teacher in Boise, Idaho, and wife of the minister of First Christian Church

Topics FOR SENIOR HIGHS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

# Free to Choose

(Independence Sunday)

Romans 13:1-8

## Publicity and Promotion

This program is scheduled for both a summer Sunday evening and a national holiday at the same time. Hence, you will have to put extra effort into publicity and promotion to guarantee good attendance at this meeting of your society. For one thing, summer is vacation time and people often are put out of touch with planned activities of their church. The best way to deal with this is to send a newsletter listing all meetings and activities of your society from the end of school in June until its reopening in September. You might begin your summer program with this Independence Day Christian Endeavor meeting.

It would be most attractive to combine this meeting with a picnic supper or conclude it with a hot-dog and hamburger roast at someone's home or in a relatively quiet area. It would also be an excellent time to welcome into your society young people being promoted from the preceding age group. There's nothing like a warm welcome and friendly fellowship.

Be sure, however, to place several posters around the church giving full details as to the time, place, and nature of the meeting. Decorate these posters with flags and pictures of great leaders of your country or of great scenes from the historic past. Don't forget to put an announcement of the meeting in your Sunday church bulletin.

## For the Leader

This program has been constructed in such a way that several people can become involved with a minimum of complication. No props will be necessary.

You should review briefly the great periods of your nation's history as well as its foundational documents and historic principles. Examine carefully the Special Readings included in the program. Those who have speaking parts in the program should do the same, because a degree of spontaneity will be needed to make their parts more authentic and personal.

Your worship service will be enhanced greatly if you can get a trumpet player to accompany the hymns, even if you do the program indoors. It will help on the introduction to the hymn *God of Our Fathers.* Be sure that he has the hymns in advance in order to practice them for the meeting.

## Suggested Program

Pre-Prayer Service
Announcements
Call to Worship: Psalm 33:12
Hymn: *God of Our Fathers*
Invocation and Lord's Prayer
Scripture Reading: Romans 13:1-8
Evening Prayer
Recitation of Christian Endeavor Pledge No. 3
Special Readings: The Preamble to the Constitution of the United States of America; The Bill of Rights; Lincoln's Gettysburg Address
Hymn: *America the Beautiful*
Leader's Introduction
Three Talks
Group Discussion
Leader's Summary and Reading of Isaiah 2:2-4
Offering and Closing Prayer
Hymn: *My Country, 'Tis of Thee*
The Aaronic Benediction (Numbers 6:24-26)

Should your society not use Christian Endeavor Pledge No. 3, a copy can be obtained from International Society Headquarters. It would be good to mimeograph several copies for your groups to use during the meeting. This pledge's particular value lies in its emphasis on *advancing our country's welfare and promoting the Christian brotherhood of man.*

Arrangements for the picnic supper or refreshments after the program should be worked out by the Social Committee.

## Leader's Introduction

The Bible says, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage" (Psalm 33:12, RSV). As Christians we therefore believe that human government is best when it is exercised under the Lordship of God. There is, for us, no area of life or thought, private or public, that can be used in isolation from the rule of the living God, who is the Lord of history. While in the modern democratic tradition we believe wholeheartedly in the separation of Church and State, we also believe that a Christian's conscience is always accountable to God and that all men and their institutions are ever subject to His divine judgement. Hence, while we are citizens of earthly nations and kingdoms we are also members of God's heavenly Kingdom which shall never pass away and which rules over all (cf. Philippians 3:20 and Psalm 103:19).

These beliefs have created problems for Christians of all ages living under unjust and tyrannical rulers, but these same beliefs have inspired them to seek to establish and even fight for the democratic freedoms of all men, ethical and merciful legislation, a moral way of life, and high standards of living for all people. But it is one thing to establish these great goals; it is another thing to maintain them as achievements. Hence, the battle for freedom, justice, and mercy for all goes on and must be continued by alert and sensitive Christians. We should be busy advancing our Country's welfare.

## Three Talks

1. The essential characteristic of any democratic nation is freedom of choice. The goal of a democracy is therefore to guarantee the maximum amount of personal freedom within the framework of the minimum amount of necessary government. This of course never means the freedom to do wrong, but rather the freedom to do good, the freedom an individual has to work out his own destiny while not hurting or hampering the life and liberty of anyone

*(Continued on next page)*

*(Continued from previous page)*

else. But this kind of responsible freedom is attainable only when it is built on the foundation of genuine faith in the living God and commitment to His holy purpose for all human life.

Belief in the existence of God is basic to belief in a moral universe, and belief that man is created in the image of God is basic to belief in the dignity and brotherhood of all men. This faith is the foundation of all justice and democracy among men and keeps a free democratic society from degenerating into an evil, undisciplined mob. But moral integrity in the human heart is necessary if men are to influence society in the right way, and only the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit make a person's character fit for living in a democracy and promoting the Christian brotherhood of man.

**2.** One of the greatest enemies Christianity and democratic nations face today is Communism. Its marks are atheism, materialism, anarchy, and the suppression of human freedom. Communism is atheistic and therefore believes that material values are more basic than religious values. Being materialistic in point of view, Communism teaches that state or government is man's ultimate object of loyalty, not the living God, and that economic concerns are its chief goal in life. Communism therefore rejects the divine origin of the moral law and holds that man's materialistic ends justify whatever means are expedient to achieve them, even anarchy, murder, stealing, and lying.

It is easy to see that freedom, justice, and brotherhood have all been suppressed in Communist countries over the past fifty years. People are not free to govern themselves and are not free to fulfill their own ideals and plans. Their personal rights of freedom of speech, religion, publication, and assembly have been denied, and they are virtual slaves of ambitious and selfish dictators. Communism rejects the authority of God in Jesus Christ. It therefore rejects and denies the inherent freedoms of men who are created in the image of God.

**3.** The glory of any democratic nation is its free institutions: homes, churches, schools. The home is the basic unit of any society, and its freedom is basic to the freedom of the whole nation. Families in democratic nations are free to determine their own ways of life. Knowing their own resources and means, they can choose what is best for them.

Where families reject secularism and choose discipleship to Jesus Christ as their way of life, the divine guidance and holy direction that result lead them to commitment to proper standards of conduct and channels of meaningful service in every area of life. Communism destroys the very nature of family life. It imposes upon families godless and materialistic standards through dictatorial government agencies and breeds distrust and hatred by teaching parents to raise children to follow Communistic ways and training children to destroy non-Communistic parents.

In the free lands our most cherished freedom is the right to worship God according to the dictates of our own Christian consciences. Our government neither rejects the existence of God nor sponsors one religious faith over another. It guarantees the equal status of all religious groups. As Christians we are free to be led by the Holy Spirit into church vocations and are free to spread our faith. Communism is atheistic and gives no official status to any religious body. In fact, it persecutes religion openly and consistently. And it considers Christianity its greatest enemy. Confessing Christians are denied the rights and privileges party members hold.

### Questions for Discussion

1. Must a Christian obey every law that his government enacts? Is there a time when he may not?

2. Can a Christian be a Communist? Can he be a socialist? Is there a difference? If so, what is it? What's wrong with the idea "better Red than dead"?

3. Discuss the difference between the right uses and the wrong uses of freedom. What is the difference between freedom and license? Illustrate it.

4. What is the present state of brotherhood and equality in our own nation? What is the Christian's responsibility in this aspect of the battle for freedom?

In the schools of our free nations children and young people are free to learn all the facts of any subject or question and are free to become what they desire. In the schools of Communist nations information is carefully controlled and colored, and students are regularly and systematically brainwashed with the Marxist philosophy of life. Young people are not free to pursue any career that appeals to them. This decision is greatly determined for them by state authorities. And confessing Christian young people are denied the privileges of higher education and the development of their abilities and gifts. This was amply illustrated in the motion picture *Question 7*.

## Leader's Summary

While we live in democratic nations, we realize that much of the world does not possess the freedoms and privileges that we do and that many people within our borders do not enjoy the rights and liberties that are properly theirs. We acknowledge that God has graciously given us the blessings we possess. But we know that the battle to establish free government throughout the world still continues and the fight to guarantee equal rights for all men still goes on. Until the Lordship of God over every area of human life and thought is established universally, our work as disciples of Christ is undone. And God grant that we may always use our freedom to choose what is right. *(Read aloud Isaiah 2:2-4).*

## Alternate Plans for Canadian Young People

In place of the Special Readings suggested in the above program you may choose to read statements from your own foundational documents, passages from the United Nation's Charter, and great statements by a great historic figure such as Winston Churchill. In the place of the hymns *America the Beautiful* and *My Country, 'Tis of Thee,* you may want to use *This Is My Father's World,* and *God Save the Queen,* etc.

### Daily Bible Readings

M. June 28 A Choice of Disobedience Jonah 1:1-16
T. June 29 A Choice between God and the King Daniel 3:1-18
W. June 30 Christ Chose to Do Good Matthew 12:9-13
T. July 1 Choosing a Place of Worship John 4:19-26
F. July 2 Christ Chooses to Pay Taxes Matthew 17:24-27
S. July 3 A Nation Should Choose Righteousness Proverbs 14:27-35
**Sun. July 4—Topic: Free to Choose Romans 13:1-8 (Independence Sunday)**

Comments by Rev. Allen A. Ruscito, assistant pastor and minister of Christian education of the First Presbyterian Church, Dunellen, New Jersey

Topic 1 in a Unit: Problems of Conduct

# Writing on the Wall

Colossians 3:1-10

## Promotion of the Meeting

Use lots of announcements. Include the announcement in all the vocal reports of coming activities. Be sure to get it to the person who does the church bulletins in ample time for her work schedule. If it can be put in the local paper, write it out and take it to the newspaper office. Type the material double spaced and as brief as possible, and the newspaper will be more likely to print it.

Make posters that have a lot of slogans that can be seen on outdoor buildings and walls or fences. For example: use "Kilroy was here," a heart with an arrow through it, "Zero Hour," and "They went that way" with an arrow. Splotch the poster with color and use the caption "Who Did It?" and then "Come to Christian Endeavor and see." Give the time and place of the meeting. Make as many as would be needed to promote the meeting adequately.

## The Situation

*(Let this be presented by one or more young people.)*

The United States Children's Bureau reports about a teen-ager who got a new sports car for his birthday present. He drove it down the street and spotted an ancient jalopy parked in an abandoned driveway. He got out of his new sports car and stole the jalopy. Four hundred thousand cars will be stolen this year, many of them by teen-age young people.

FBI statistics show that:

1. Persons under the age of 18 are responsible for 18 percent of arrests for rape. Persons under 21 are responsible for 41 percent of this crime.

2. Persons under 18 are responsible for 21 percent of the arrests for robbery.

3. Persons under the age of 18 are responsible for 24 percent of the arrests for aggravated assaults. One form of this is mugging, an offense which is growing and keeping people off the streets after dark.

4. Today there are some 217,000 persons confined in state and federal prisons and reformatories. Outside the prisons there are about a million teen-agers that, unless they change their ways, are going to be streaming into prison in the next decade. Juvenile delinquency forms a vast recruiting pool for the criminal population of the United States. Boys are going into crime as a career as early as age 14. The Children's Bureau says that if a child can pass the age of 15 without getting into trouble it is a triumph for law and order.

Let's go back to automobiles. Some 14,000 children under 15 are arrested each year for stealing automobiles. Sixty-three percent of all persons arrested for stealing cars are under 18. Some say that cars have a natural fascination for young people. The fact is that boys and girls work themselves through the entire calendar of crime. The most recent report of the Federal Bureau of Investigation shows that there isn't a crime in the book for which teen-agers have not been arrested. Included are murder, rape, burglary, forgery, and counterfeiting. Law enforcement officers are deeply concerned because more and more children are deliberately choosing crime as a career. They apply themselves eagerly to self-education on how to get something for nothing.

With these disturbing and startling facts before us perhaps this is the time to ask why teen-agers are resorting to crime. And more important, how can it be stopped?

## The Survey

After presenting the material on the crime situation, conduct a survey among those present. Have paper and pencils available and be prepared with instructions for the survey. Ask each one to write three or more reasons why teen-agers commit acts of vandalism and crime. After they have written the three reasons, ask them to write three ways to stop the disfiguring of public and private property and other crimes. While the next part of the program is being presented, compile the results of the written survey. At the end compare the two surveys and try to reach a conclusion or conclusions.

### Suggested Program

Pre-Prayer Service
Prelude
Call to Worship
Hymn of Praise: *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*
Invocation
Scripture Reading: Colossians 3:1-10
Hymn: *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*
Prayer
Unison Repeating of the Pledge
Offering and Announcements
Hymn: *I Would Be True*
Topic Presentation
Closing Hymn: *An Evening Prayer*
Benediction

## Results of Other Surveys

A group of high school students were asked to share in a project relating to vandalism among teen-agers. There were about 50 in the experiment. They were asked in classes on American Problems to wrote three or more reasons why teen-age young people defaced property, broke windows, and destroyed or stole things belonging to others. The young people were in two different classes with the same teacher and wrote out the material on the same day with each person working individually.

At least 23 different answers were written. Several were different aspects of the same idea, and these were united into one. One said that young people had no respect for their own property, and therefore had none for any that belonged to someone else. Another said that they wanted to show that they were adults and went at it in the wrong way. One contended that those who practiced criminal acts were just immature and hadn't grown up yet. One thought that the reason was that the young person didn't want anyone to have things better than he had, and so he destroyed them. Two fell back on the old reason—everybody does it, and so it's all right for me. Two thought that young people were insecure and took this method of expressing the feeling. Two thought that the teen-ager was seeking to be a leader and used this method to demonstrate his leadership ability.

One group of twelve teen-agers in the classes said that the ones committing acts of vandalism were doing it in revenge. Included in this response were such ideas as: "they are trying to get back at the world," "need to take it out on some-

*(Continued on next page)*

*(Continued from previous page)*

thing," "temporarily mad," and "flaunting authority." Four contended that young people just couldn't resist the temptation to ruin something. Only one said that it was a lack of religious training and love of God.

"They are just going with the crowd," said 16 of the respondents. In various forms such as "poor parental guidance," "bad parental example," "poor discipline on the part of parents", and "bad companions," twenty said "poor environment." Only six thought the vandals were emotionally unstable. Running neck and neck as reasons in the view of these high school people were the reasons "lack of attention" and "bored," 29 naming lack of attention and 28 saying "bored." Various expressions such as "to get attention," "to show off," "friends think it smart," "want recognition" were used to express this idea of the need to be recognized by others.

Those who were classified under the expression "bored" used phrases like "to get a thrill," "need to be active," "nothing to do," "for excitement," and "have to have something to do."

These are the reasons offered by an average group of teen-agers for the conduct of other teen-agers. The two classes were nearly all seniors in high school. *(See how this list of ideas compares with the list compiled by your Christian Endeavor society.)*

The same two classes were then asked to offer three or more ways to curb or to stop destruction of other people's property. Eighteen suggestions were offered. Only three suggestions had more than five people suggesting them. Three had nothing to offer in the way of a solution. Only one mentioned that there should be more religious training. Two thought that there was too much publicity about juvenile delinquency and that this tended to encourage it. Three said bluntly, "Find something better to do." Three others were just as final in saying, "Young people should learn to control themselves." "Talk to young people about the evils of vandalism," said two others. It is significant that only one mentioned the need for better companions. There were three that wanted better schools with more emphasis on moral obligations of teen-agers. One urged more pride in the way a neighborhood looked. Five said to give young people a larger place with more recognition for their work.

A disturbing answer was offered by five who said, "It can't be stopped." "It has always been, and it will always be,"

### Questions for Discussion

1. What is there about a window in an empty building that tempts you to throw a rock through it?

2. How much responsibility must teen-agers assume for their actions?

3. How does the Christian faith help in curbing crime?

4. Which of the solutions offered for crimes in this meeting is one that will work best?

5. What is the relation of church attendance to crime rate?

was the way one said it. One felt the need for more optimism about young people than this answer offers. Nineteen said that stiffer and surer penalties were needed. "Not just talk, but enforce the law," said one. Another wanted to make sure that repayment was made by the young people themselves and not their parents.

A few wanted some kind of open display of guilt, such as wearing a placard around the neck announcing the crime committed. There seemed to be a general feeling that the assurance of punishment was more important than the nature of the punishment. Twenty said that the responsibility for training and guiding young people rested with the parents and that here was a real reason for delinquency. They said that the parents needed training, that they needed to be closer to the teen-ager and that the teen-ager should have and be aware of support from his parents. This was not support for misdemeanor, but just all-around support for a good and better life.

Better recreational facilities that were guided and under proper control received the most support. Twenty-four included this in their suggestions. Named as possibilities were clubs, the Y's, various leagues, and organized wholesome activity.

*(Compare this list of suggestions for curbing delinquency with the list compiled by your Christian Endeavor society.* What are the differences? How do you account for them?)

## The Bible Teaches

Public and private property is defaced with pencils, paint, pens, nails, crayons, jackknives. Board fences, buildings, walls, desks, and sidewalks all come in for their share of this ugly practice. A building cannot stand empty but a short time till all the windows are broken out and many parts carried away.

Some markings are illegible. Others are obviously the idle scratching of aimless hands. Rude and uncouth words show up in the most undesirable places. What is the reason for it? Why does the teen-ager participate in this kind of vandalism that destroys public and private property? What gratification or pleasure does the writer get? Is there any cure?

Defacement and destruction of property indicates a lack of respect for other people's possessions. The Bible has some very definite things to say about treatment of articles that belong to someone else. The Old Testament recording of the experiences of Moses on Mt. Sinai lists one of the Ten Commandments as "Thou shalt not covet." An expansion of this includes property of any person. Thus does the Old Testament urge respect and protection for the property of others. Chapters 21 and 22 of Exodus contain a series of regulations that relate the punishment for those who misuse someone's belongings. An animal that gets into another's property and feeds on the vineyard or on any growing things has made his owner liable for damages. Exodus 22:9 says: "For all manner of trespass, whether it be for ox, for ass, for sheep, for raiment, or for any manner of lost thing which another challengeth to be his, the cause of both parties shall come before the judges; and whom the judges shall condemn, he shall pay double to his neighbor." Certainly writing on walls and breaking windows and stealing are trespasses and are condemned by the Bible.

Jesus urged love for each other. The person whose life is motivated by love gives consideration to all that belongs to someone else. Love makes one ask, "Do I want to cause loss or difficulty for someone I love? How can I even think of destroying something that is the possession of one I love?" Another's possessions belong to one for whom Christ died and He loves us both, and therefore I must protect his belongings as I would my own. Perhaps the answer to the great problem of teen-age crime is the love of Christ in every person.

### Daily Bible Readings

M. July 5 Respect for One's Family Exodus 21:7-17
T. July 6 Respect for Others Exodus 21:18-25
W. July 7 Covetousness I Kings 21:1-14
T. July 8 Malicious Destruction II Samuel 14:28-33
F. July 9 Race Hatred Esther 3:1-6
S. July 10 Idle Words Matthew 12:31-37
**Sun. July 11—Topic: Writing on the Wall Colossians 3:1-10**

Comments by Elwood Dunn, general secretary of the Michigan Christian Endeavor Union and extension representative of the International Society of Christian Endeavor

Topic 2 in a Unit: Problems of Conduct

# Smoke Gets in My Eyes

Romans 6:11-13

## Advertising the Meeting

The title of the topic suggests a poster motif. It would imply a picture of a person with smoke in his face. Make the poster in such a way as to suggest a unique presentation. The materials that follow are somewhat different than the usual approach to the problem.

Another idea would be to have some cigarette packages placed on the poster. The packages could be labeled "These cause cancer." Then ask the questions "Should cigarettes be labeled?" and "How do you suggest that people realize the dangers?" Add "Come tonight for a lively discussion." Be sure to put the time and place on the poster.

A third method would be a brief write-up in the church paper or bulletin.

## Plans for the Meeting

One plan is outlined in this treatment. It involves the leader in a discussion-type meeting. By presenting some factual material, it guards against a mere "pooling of ignorance." On the other hand, there is an attempt made to involve the group.

A second plan would be to use a filmstrip as the method of presenting the background material. Filmstrips are available through the American Cancer Society. Consider also the film *What about Drinking and Smoking?* by Family Filmstrips, Inc.

A third plan would be to have a Christian doctor talk to the group about the facts of cigarette smoking and cancer. You might have a joint meeting with some other Christian youth groups.

## Introduction

The discussion for this evening is the last of a series of three on the general topic of problems of conduct. Since Christianity is a way of life, our commitment to Christ must reach into every area of human experience. In Christianity we do not have a detailed set of specific commands or prohibitions, but rather our conduct is the essence of our Scripture lesson as found in Romans 6:11-13. This truth is made clear if one reads through verses 15 and 16 of this chapter. Paul affirms the same principle in I Corinthians 10:23,24 and 32,33 (*read these verses*).

Because Christ is the Lord of our lives, there are certain implications that help us in the solution of our behavior problems. A behavior problem is a situation in which we have freedom to choose one of two or more behavior patterns (or sets of habits). The problem to be considered tonight is "Should I as a Christian make smoking tobacco, particularly cigarettes, a habit of my life?"

(Perhaps a clearer picture can be drawn if the question as to the values of smoking, or at least why people do smoke, is discussed. At this point your group might want to break up into smaller groups and discuss the following questions: Is it for health reasons? Does the habit really relax a person? Is it the best way to relax? Do some start smoking for status reasons—to get a feeling of belonging or being an adult? Do you feel that the habit really gives this? Do others start as a sign of rebellion against parents? Are there other reasons that people smoke?)

Do you believe that people that smoke are aware of some of the problems involved in smoking? What do you think a smoker would do if he knew that it would *definitely* give him cancer? Why do you suppose some continue to smoke when according to the U.S. Surgeon General's report there is a definite connection between cigarette smoking and lung cancer? What about the effect of smoking on people who do not smoke? Does not the "right" of a person to smoke infringe upon the "rights" of those who do not want to smoke?

According to a *Time* magazine report (November 6, 1964, pp. 89,90) there was a decline in cigarette sales shortly after the U.S. Surgeon General's report in January 1964. The decline was from a gross sales of almost two billion dollars a year to about $1.7 billion. But within three months it went back up. According to this report there were 70 million smokers. When people are starving in some parts of the world, think what two billion dollars could do!

An important fact for the Christian to realize is that he does not make decisions simply from the basis of economics, physical health, or social propriety. If Jesus Christ is Lord in His life, then this provides the basis for his decisions.

There are those who would separate the spiritual from the physical. Such persons reason that such matters as smoking have to do with the physical, and therefore should be of no spiritual concern. While the New Testament uses the terms "flesh" and "spirit," they are not used to designate this difference. Paul admonished the Christians at Corinth, "Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God" (II Corinthians 7:1, RSV).

But how are we to know the will of Christ in matters of conduct about which the New Testament has no direct command? Certainly smoking cigarettes lies

(*Continued on next page*)

### Suggested Program

Pre-Prayer Service
Announcements
Call to Worship: Hebrews 4:15,16
Hymn: *In the Service of the King*
Scripture Reading: Romans 6:11-13
Hymn: *I Surrender All*
Prayer
Hymn: *Are Ye Able, Said the Master*
Presentation of the Topic
Summary of the Discussion
Benediction

*(Continued from previous page)*

within this category. What are some Christian principles that should help a Christian make a decision as to whether we should smoke?

## Talks on the Topic

1. The Christian has a fellowship that is more wonderful than that which is gained through conformity! It is a fact today that most people start and continue smoking as a status symbol.

There are many people who do not have to smoke to be accepted. They find that those who smoke admire the non-smoker if he refuses graciously. Or at times the smoker may outwardly chide the non-smoker, but inwardly wish that he did not have the habit.

All too frequently young people think that they "have to smoke to belong to the crowd." If this is true, perhaps the young person should look for another crowd! But it is doubtful if it is as true as the young person using this reason wants to believe. What the young person is really "acting out" is a deep feeling of insecurity that causes him to be led into doing things that really do not bring satisfaction of soul. Many who have dealt with troubled people in the clinical situation find that the emotionally upset person is more often than not a "chain" smoker. Smoking can be almost a neurotic bid for security and acceptance. But seldom, if ever, is this really satisfying.

2. A Christian is a steward of all that he has, e.g., his influence, his time, his money. To be faithful in such a stewardship a Christian should always seek to lead others to the best life. Anything that would cause harm to our bodies or to our health should be avoided. Some say, "Smoking is no worse than overeating." One bad practice does not really excuse another. If some church members would give as much to the church as they spend on tobacco, the church could accomplish much more than it is now able to do.

Paul has affirmed that "all things are lawful, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful, but not all things build up" (I Corinthians 10:23 RSV) The Christian should constantly seek to do the thing that will build up. His concern should be that of developing to the fullest, the potential that God has placed within him. It will not be his desire to be as indulgent as possible and still remain a Christian.

3. A Christian should be clean and respect the rights of others. Altogether too many smokers have no real respect for others who do not smoke. It is doubtful that many realize how dirty the smoking habit really is. Uncleanness is one of the fruits of the flesh. According to II Corinthians 7:1 the Christian should put away all kinds of uncleanness, i.e., both of the flesh and of the spirit.

## Proposals for Action

But why should youth become concerned about smoking? The answer is that they are already concerned. According to one study in 1959, only 25 percent of teen-agers were regular smokers. By 1961 this percentage had risen to 40 percent. (See Maurine Neuberger, "Hazards of Teenage Smoking," *Parents Magazine,* January 29, 1964, pp. 58, 74.)

How can teen-agers be convinced that it is not a good practice? Several experiments have been conducted at this point. During the year 1958-59 an experiment was carried out by the American Cancer Society in Portland, Oregon. It was under the direction of Dr. Daniel Horn. He divided the Portland schools into six experimental groups. One of these was used as a control group. In another group films and compulsory lectures on the grim realities of cancer caused by smoking were used. There was no appreciable difference in the "rate of recruitment to smoking." In the second group the approach was made to inform the young persons' parents and family of the hazards of smoking.

A third approach was to dwell on the immediate hazards of smoking such as the cost and unattractiveness of the habit and the bad effect upon athletic ability. This did not show any reduction in recruitment rate.

A fourth method was a rational, unemotional presentation of the relationship of cigarette smoking to lung cancer. This method seemed to produce a definite reduction of the rate of recruitment to smoking.

A fifth method was a "both-sided" approach. Advantages of smoking were discussed as well as the hazards. The rate of recruitment was less than the first three; it was greater than the fourth method.

Do you think that the same methods should be used with Christian young people? Why? Why not? What might be some other ways to meet the problem?

Maurine Neuberger has suggested four lines of governmental action: (1) education of the pre-smoking adolescent and the adult smoker; (2) expanded research into the technology of safer smoking; (3) reform of cigarette advertising and promotion; and (4) cautionary and informative labeling of cigarette packages.

But can adult-sponsored programs of education really accomplish the goal? A British educator perceptively observed in a letter to the *Manchester Guardian:* "The eventual aim must be to make smoking unfashionable for young people. Only when cigarette smoking means to be 'not with it' can we expect any dramatic results!"

Maurine Newberger remarked, "Yet the teen-age smoker is today with it primarily because teen-age smoking is a reflection of adult smoking." (Quotations are from *Parents Magazine,* January 29, 1964, p. 74). If this be true, what do you think young people can do about the situation?

## Bibliography


Brief articles:

*Time,* November 6, 1964, pp. 89, 90.

"Hazards of Teen-age Smoking" by Maurine Neuberger, *Parents Magazine,* Vol. XXXIX, No. 1, January 1964, pp. 51, 74.

". . . And Slow Death" *Readers Digest,* February 1963.

American-Cancer Society Publications: "Facts on Teen-age Smoking," "Shall I Smoke?" "Smoking and Health," and "To Smoke or Not to Smoke."

Books:

Neuberger, Maurine. *Smoke Screen: Tobacco and Public Welfare.* Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice Hall, Inc., 1963.

Motion pictures:

*Cancer by the Carton, Time Pulls the Trigger,* and *One in 20,000.* These are available at $5.00 rental fee from Western Pennsylvania Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists, 744 North Negley Avenue, Pittsburgh 6, Pennsylvania.

Filmstrip:

*What About Drinking and Smoking?,* Family Filmstrips (available at local film rental establishments).


### Daily Bible Readings

M. July 12 Our Sacred Bodies I Corinthians 15:35-44
T. July 13 The New Life Ephesians 4:20-32
W. July 14 Purity Exhorted Ephesians 5:1-13
T. July 15 Works of the Flesh and Spirit Galatians 5:16-26
F. July 16 Man, in the Eyes of God Hebrews 2:6-10
S. July 17 Overcoming the World I John 5:1-4
**Sun. July 18—Topic: Smoke Gets in My Eyes Romans 6:11-13**

Comments by Dr. Lawrence M. Bixler, professor of Bible and Christian Education at Northwest Christian College, Eugene, Oregon

# BEWARE

Topic 3 in a Unit:
Problems of Conduct

## Why Take a Chance?

II Thessalonians 3:10-12

### Suggested Program

Pre-Prayer Service
Call to Worship: Psalm 16:1-4
Hymns: *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name; Take My Life and Let It Be*
Scripture Reading: II Thessalonians 3:10-12
Prayer in Unison: The Lord's Prayer
Offering
Prayer of Dedication of Offering
Topic Introduction
Division into Smaller Groups for Discussion
Conclusions Presented by a Representative of Each Group in a Panel
Hymn: *O Jesus, I Have Promised*
Sentence Prayers
Benediction

### For Publicity

Interview the pastor and ask him to mention the meeting in his Sunday morning prayers and/or announcements. If it is appropriate, ask to participate in the worship service and invite all youth to attend. The same could be done in the Sunday church school.

### For the Leader

Here are some suggestions for planning the meeting: (1) Interview a policeman or police superintendent to discuss the problem of gambling in your area. Take notes or ask for printed material to use in your youth group for presentation and for discussion. (2) Be sure to have enough materials on hand for small groups to use in discussion. The amount depends on the size of your group. (3) Plan for additional room space for discussion groups with necessary chairs, tables, paper and pen for each group. (4) Plan your presentation so you will not have to read the material.

### Topic Introduction

The Scripture for this topic is an interesting passage from the second letter to the church at Thessalonica. Paul is giving instruction to the church of his day which has much importance in our day as well. This third chapter of the letter is the final paragraph or thought that Paul wants to leave with these people and which also speaks to us in the twentieth century.

One of the main reasons for writing this letter comes out in the third chapter. He deals with those who are walking in a disorderly fashion on life's road. These people of Paul's time were in feverish expectation of Christ's return and thus were neglecting their daily tasks as committed Christians. It is always necessary to be faithful in the work we have to do. For most youth this work is school, and Paul's commentary for this age group would probably be to exert ourselves to be faithful as a Christian witness by doing our best in school. *(There should be a discussion of what this means to each one in the classroom, on some activity committee, or on the sports team. And what does the application of this mean in our relationships to each other at school? Does this passage have any application in terms of our family relationships?)*

Another point that Paul makes in this passage is that offenders must change their ways. Such conduct has no place in the lives of Christians any place or in any age. We need to take care so as not to show approval by word or deed to those who would be lazy, scorn hard and honest work, strive for mediocrity, or think in a slighting manner of those who achieve. Why is it so important in our generation to follow Paul's teaching? Do automation and increasingly complex technology have anything to do with our application of this Biblical teaching of the necessity of hard work? What would constant idleness do to us if we practiced it today? What would happen to our country if we did not work? Does this have anything to do with our Christian faith?

If we do not work honestly and faithfully at whatever God puts before us as our task, we are easily led to problems that faced the Thessolonians or worse. Paul charged them with idleness which made "busybodies" out of them. This is bad enough, and the same situation can be recreated if we are idle. However, it also can lead to worse evils. In idleness we can sometimes get along, especially when we do not have the responsibilities of a family to feed and clothe. Sometimes we can get along on a minimum of effort which creates in us a "something-for-nothing" philosophy of life. This is in fact the motive which creates the evils of gambling. We can learn a great deal concerning the necessity of honest work when we see where the opposite philosophy of life leads us.

Gambling is a vice of our generation which has created much heartache and sorrow. It can develop an attitude which leads us to do just the opposite of the apostle Paul's admonitions. There is much that can be learned about this problem right close to our home. No community or area is without the damaging effects of gambling. (The leader should present the material gathered through interview. See the section *For the Leader.*)

We should all strive to make the teachings of the Scriptures apply to our daily lives. Paul's teaching in this chapter deserves our attention in doing just that. Perhaps it would be well now for us to divide into several groups and discuss various questions which it raises.

*(Continued on next page)*

*(Continued from previous page)*

## For Group Discussion

### Group One

This group could discuss how to apply Paul's teaching in this chapter to the school situation. What are the problems that idleness creates? How does this teaching relate to the dropout problem that faces us in America? The group should also discuss the application of this principle of honest work to sports activities and extracurricular activities. Is it not easy to be a part of the team or some group activity to gain attention or popularity without being a responsible participant? Isn't this the same "something-for-nothing" principle? Be honest enough to talk about your own experiences and discuss how to be more honest in your school activities. List the suggestions you want to make for the benefit of the whole group.

### Group Two

These could discuss the problem of gambling in the community or area and what youth could do to eliminate it. What measure would you take to discourage "petty" gambling? Are there any forms of gambling in which high school young people are likely to be tempted to participate?

Discuss a possible plan to help discourage gambling in your community or among young people. List the activities which tend to encourage idleness and the "something-for-nothing" philosophy. Discuss the material on local gambling problems that the leader presented. What could the group do to let other people in the church and community know about this problem? Take some action so that the group will recommend to the whole Christian Endeavor society positive steps to eliminate gambling and discourage youth from starting.

### Group Three

The third group could discuss the possible effects of idleness on the economy of our land. What do you think the apostle Paul would think of high school dropouts or persons who are not interested in preparation for a needed occupation? What could be done to encourage youth in our church to stay in school and prepare for a vocation or profession that would enable them to work? Do you know some youth who are not interested in school? How could you encourage them to stay in school so that they will have the possibility of leading useful lives and so they will not have to be idle for lack of work? What kind of preparation is necessary today in order to be able to heed the Biblical teaching to work and not be idle?

### Other Groups

If the society is large enough to divide into more groups, have two or more groups take the same subjects. Other subjects for discussion could also be used. (1) What should be our attitude concerning Christ's coming and its relationship to work, preparing for life's vocations, and attitudes toward others and our church? (2) Paul advocated discipline for those who did not work. Should there be penalties for the idle? What about those who cannot find work?

### Conclusions

After a time for discussion in small groups, have each group report conclusions and any recommendations for further action by the whole group. Be sure there is a recording secretary in each group so that an accurate report can be made. If there is time, form a report panel consisting of one person from each small group reporting and then answering questions from the others present.

Save enough time to take some definite action for putting into practice the conclusions or recommendations of the smaller groups. If we are to be honest with ourselves, we must make our faith more than words or discussion. It is possible that you may want to spend other meetings or an especially designated time to report on progress concerning any recommendations passed. If a course of action is passed on by vote of the whole group, be sure to assign several persons to see that it is carried out.

## Consecration to the Task

Let us pledge ourselves to carry out the task of putting into practice the Scriptural teaching of honesty and hard work and to carry through our course of action. *(You may want to use the following prayer.)*

O God in Heaven, help us to be faithful in our work. Help us to see that it is our Christian responsibility to work hard and honestly in our endeavors and in whatever our hands find for themselves to do. Keep us from the temptations of idleness, slothfulness, and irresponsibility. Teach us the importance of preparing ourselves for life so that in due time You may call us to do Your work. Even now make us instruments in Your hands. Help us to be examples to others in our daily work at school, at home, or with friends. Teach us to know the value of time and to use it for the glory of Your name and for the sake of Your kingdom. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

* * * * *

### Keep the Record Clean

In the Lord's Prayer we repeat "and lead us not into temptation." The Lord will surely not lead us into temptation but will endeavor to keep us from yielding to it if we are truly His followers. Even the Lord Himself was tempted by the devil (Matthew 4:3-10). But He overcame these temptations when He said, "Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve." Thus we see that when we are tempted, it is not the Lord who tempts us, but Satan. We must be constantly prayerful and watchful lest we fall into temptation.

We will want to be known as Christians in every phase of our lives. It may be in school, at our part-time jobs, during recreation, or while on vacation. Do not be seen in questionable places and, above all, do nothing that would detract from the glory of the Lord. Take a firm stand for Christ, and others will admire you for it. Those friends of yours who make fun at the mention of any Christian activity or seem entirely unchristian in their attitude expect you to take a firm stand for Christ if you profess to believe in Him at all. If you do not, they will not think highly of you because you have failed to defend something in which you believe. Make a choice today. Stand firmly in your Christian principles, and you will help lead others to Christ. A weak Christian needs your help too, and even though the Lord loves him, he will be ineffective in his witnessing. Do not be chained to lukewarmness and ineffectiveness. Do something about it now!

### Daily Bible Readings

M. July 19 Our Creation Was Not by Chance
Genesis 1:26-31
T. July 20 God's Judgment Is Not by Chance
Psalm 9:1-10
W. July 21 God's Promises Are Satisfying
Isaiah 55:1-5
T. July 22 Treasures That Are Secure
Matthew 6:19-24
F. July 23 Gamble Not on His Coming
Matthew 25:1-13
S. July 24 Unwavering Faith James 1:1-8
**Sun. July 25—Topic: Why Take a Chance?**
**II Thessalonians 3:10-12**

Comments by Rev. Nathan H. VanderWerf, Associate Director of the Columbus area Council of Churches, Ohio

**Hymns listed in program outlines in THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR WORLD have been selected from the new CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR SONGS. This book, with an attractive orange and black krome-kote cover, contains 138 songs and hymns and 20 responsive Scripture readings for youth meetings. Available from International Society of Christian Endeavor, 1221 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43216. Price: 60c each, $6 per dozen, $48 per hundred.**

# Topics and Helps

FOR YOUNG ADULTS AND ADULTS

## Topic Summaries for July

Prepared by the Adult Work Committee

### Participation in Government (two topics)

**1. In the Know**

*Exodus 3:7-18; Numbers 27:15-23*

Throughout history people have formed various types of governments in an attempt to live together harmoniously, to provide safety for their own individuals, and for many other reasons. How much do you know about the government which provides protection and safety for you? From whom or what do government officials get authority to carry on their work? Moses was handpicked and prepared by God to lead the people of Israel. How do officials today get training to later become leaders in their countries? Too often it takes a tragedy to arouse the citizens of a nation to give attention to the mechanics of government and how the power of public office can be controlled. What responsibility does the individual have to become informed?

**2. What If . . . ?**

*Psalm 48; I Peter 2:13-17*

What if no one wanted to run for election to offices within the government? What if no one paid taxes? What if no one ever voted during elections? These questions are seeds for a brainstorming session. To brainstorm, divide the society into small groups of not less than five and not more than nine. Ask someone in each group to be a recorder. Appoint someone to be a leader. Record the spontaneous answers which come to the above questions. Stress that the answers do not need to be explainable, only spontaneous. Some reactions to "What if no one ever voted?" could be: We would have appointed officials; stocks in voting machine manufacturing companies would hit a new low; government workers would lose a holiday; or we could soon have a dictator running our government. Sort out the sensible reactions and use them for further discussion.

### Devotional Life (two topics)

**1. I Hear a Voice**

*Genesis 3:8-10; Matthew 3:17; 17:5; Revelation 5:11-14*

To hear a voice one must be within the area of the one speaking. Interferences can hinder recognizing the voice. The better one becomes acquainted with a person the easier it is to recognize his voice or his footsteps. This is true in the spiritual life as well as in the physical. It is wise to practice listening and remaining quiet long enough to recognize the voice or sound one desires most to hear. Select an assortment of Bible references that indicate God speaking and assign them to individuals to read in the meeting. What are some of the things that interfere when one attempts to listen to God's voice? Name some ways in which God speaks. How can a person profit by being alone with God? Where are some good places to be alone with God?

**2. "Come Ye Apart . . ."**

*Mark 6:30-32; Matthew 14:23; Luke 6:12*

Every day is full of activity. Many things to do, many places to go. One never seems to have enough time to get everything done. A person should keep in mind that all of his activities should be pleasing to God and a witness to Christian living. Jesus, too, followed a busy schedule but often He came apart from the crowd for a time alone with His Heavenly Father. Why was it necessary for Him to take time for meditation and prayer? What might have happened if He had not taken time for these experiences? What difference can one expect in his Christian life if he takes time to meditate and pray regularly? What happens in regard to one's love for his Saviour and his willingness to serve Him if he spends time in personal communion with the Lord? Is time ever wasted in observing the "Quiet Hour" with Him? Distribute and explain the folder *What Is the Quiet Hour?* and urge members to enroll.

**The Adult Work Committee which prepared these summaries included Timothy J. Kribs, chairman; Rev. R. P. Carter, Wanna Sell, and Mrs. Roger D. Vander Kolk.**

# TOPICS FOR OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, AND DECEMBER

Young Adult and Adult groups should plan ahead for weekly meetings, with leaders selected in ample time for careful preparation. Here are the topics which will appear in THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR WORLD for use by Young Adult and Adult societies during the months of October through December 1965.

### World Reconstruction (two topics)

1. **More than Preaching**—Romans 15:25-28; Luke 10:29-37 (exploring the possibility of becoming involved firsthand with government and church-related agencies in assisting the less privileged around the world)
2. **Around the World with Christian Endeavor**—Colossians 1:3-6 (presenting a report of Christian Endeavor down through the years and around the world, showing how it has helped in world reconstruction)

### Missionary Personalities (three topics)

1. **Jonah, the Runaway**—Jonah 1:1-3; 3:10; 4:1-3; I Samuel 15:22 (a study of the obstacles a person may find in the way as he attempts to carry the Gospel at home or abroad)
2. **Paul, the Missionary** — Acts 12:25; 13:1-4; 16:9-13 (finding ways in which Christians can be open and ready to respond to God's leading, whatever it may be)
3. **Luther, the Reformer**—Romans 1:16,17; 8:1,2, 14-18 (consideration of present-day issues in which we should "contend for the faith of our fathers")

### Public Worship (two topics)

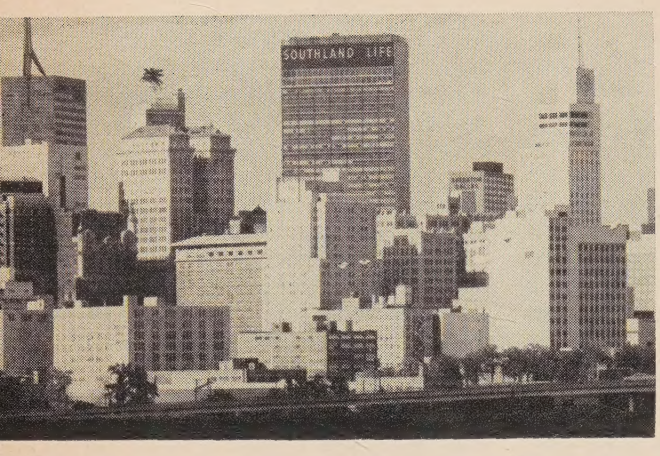
1. **"Praise Ye the Lord"**—Psalm 146; Ephesians 5:1,2,19,20; Revelation 4:10,11; 5:11-13 (a study of public worship and its meaning and value to the individual Christian)
2. **Equipment for Service**—Luke 4:16-32; Ephesians 4:11-16 (exploring ways that worship and Bible study contribute to the Christian life)

### Local Benevolence (two topics)

1. **Who's Knocking?**—Mark 7:24-30; Matthew 25:34-40 (expressing interest in those less fortunate and lonely around us)
2. **Conflict of Loyalties**—Ecclesiastes 3:1-15; Proverbs 22:1-6 (drawing the line between good and worthwhile activities which demand time and support and those which are most important and essential for the Christian)

### Bible Study (four topics)

1. **The Seed and the Soil**—Mark 4:1-20; Matthew 13:1-23; Luke 8:4-15 (an experience in group Bible study of parallel Gospel accounts)
2. **The Sword of the Spirit**—Psalm 119:89-104 (exploring the fascinating story of the Bible through history, translations, and displays)
3. **God's Word to Man**—Hebrews 1:1-3; John 1:1-5 (focusing on Christ as the One whom God sent to bring the Gospel of His love and mercy)
4. **Remember**—Deuteronomy 6 (a study of what Christians need to remember—and also things they ought to forget)




# Make a Date for DALLAS!

**Mark your calendar: July 6-10, 1965**

**Place: Statler Hilton Hotel, Dallas, Texas**

**Purpose: 48th International Christian Endeavor Convention**

## Great Days Ahead in Dallas

Christian Endeavorers have wonderful things in store in Dallas this July. Thousands of youth from the United States and Canada, with special delegations from Mexico and Guatemala, will converge on the Statler Hilton Hotel in Dallas July 6 to be on hand for the International Convention. From the first session Tuesday night through the great Saturday evening closing meeting, delegates will be given inspiring fare.

## A Real Convention Bargain

The economical "package plan" rates at the Statler Hilton make the Dallas Convention a wonderful bargain. For just $38 a delegate receives lodging Tuesday through Saturday nights (dormitory style, four to a room), and all meals Wednesday through Saturday. Rate for a double room is $51 per person; twin room, $52.25 per person; single occupancy, $56. You can't afford to stay home!

**Use the registration blank to register now—receive complete convention information.**

## Outstanding Program Personalities

**Arch J. McQuilkin,** president of the International Society—Keynote speaker and presider at the fellowship lunch period each day

**Rev. Benjamin Alvarez T.,** minister of the Presbyterian Church of Zitacuaro, Michoacan, and adviser of the Mexican National Christian Endeavor Union—Wednesday night speaker

**Dr. Perry E Gresham,** president, Bethany College, Bethany, West Virginia—Thursday night speaker

**Dr. Daniel A. Poling,** honorary president of World's Christian Endeavor Union and editor of CHRISTIAN HERALD magazine—Friday night speaker

**Bishop Clyde W. Meadows,** president, World's Union, and bishop of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ—Saturday night speaker and convention song leader

**Dr. Abraham K. Akaka,** pastor of Kawaiahao Church, Honolulu, Hawaii — daily Quiet Hour leader

**Rev. Andrew White,** executive secretary-treasurer of the Division of Christian Education, African Methodist Episcopal Church — Communion service

In addition, competent leaders will conduct educational conferences each morning for all ages. Talented and dedicated youth will participate in many ways throughout the convention.

## Special Features

**Dale Evans,** popular Western entertainer, will be present to receive International Youth's Distinguished Service Citation on behalf of Roy Rogers and herself. She will be accompanied by their teen-age daughter, Dodie.

**Juniors** will participate in special activities each morning plus the Junior Convention Saturday 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

**Sight-seeing tours** planned by the Dallas Convention Committee include an all-day outing to SIX FLAGS Over Texas on July 6, bus tours and foot tours of Dallas, and a special tour of Fair Park.

**The Convention Banquet,** with Charles Meek (Texas president) as toastmaster, will be held Friday evening.

**The Christian Witness Parade,** through the heart of Dallas, on Saturday afternoon.

USE THIS REGISTRATION BLANK

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR
1221 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43216

(Please print or type)

Please register me for Dallas 1965. I enclose $5.

Rev., Mr., Mrs., Miss.....
(Circle proper title)

Street & No. .....

City, State, and ZIP Code.....

Church .....
(Give full name and denomination)

I am a member of the ..... Christian Endeavor Society or Youth Fellowship.

Local Union.....

State Union.....

My present responsibility in Christian Endeavor is.....

.....

Age (if under 25) ..... Over 25, check here ☐